Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-037 *23 February 1996*

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Russia: Yeltsin Receives Proposals for Ending Chechen Crisis

LD2302100396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — Two commissions, one headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the other by presidential aid Emil Pain, today handed over to President Yeltsin their proposals for the settlement of the Chechen crisis, Boris Yeltsin said in his address to the Federal Assembly in the Kremlin.

President Yeltsin said the proposals submitted by the two commissions will be used as a basis for "decision-making on the peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis."

The head of state explained that the peace plan for Chechnya provides for a series of steps, including the continuation of the negotiating process and the strengthening of the legitimate authorities of the Chechen republic.

The legitimate Chechen authorities will henceforth be responsible for restoring law and order in the republic and the use of Federal resources for the recovery of the economy and for the payment of social allowances to the population.

The President confirmed his readiness for talks with any political forces interested in the peaceful solution to the Chechen problem. One reservation is that negotiations must be conducted not with gangsters and not behind the back of the legitimate government of Chechnya.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Chairs Meeting of Chechnya Peace Commission

LD2202172796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Only Russia itself can resolve the Chechen problem, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of a commission on settlement in Chechnya, told Interfax Thursday before the beginning of the commission's session.

"Chechnya is our problem, our pain. Chechnya is Russia, that is why nobody will resolve all the issues of the crisis settlement and economic reconstruction for us," said Chernomyrdin, adding that "we will not allow anyone to resolve these problems for us anyway."

The commission's session presided over by Chernomyrdin is expected to reach a final agreement on proposals aimed at restoring peace in Chechnya.

The proposals will be submitted to President Yeltsin who ordered the commission's creation.

Another expert commission, headed by political analyst Emil Pain, a member of the Presidential Council, is also drafting proposals for Chechen settlement.

Russia: Zavgayev Says Chechnya 'Heading Toward Peace'

LD2202132696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Chechnya's Moscow-backed leader Doku Zavgayev hopes to seal agreements on an end to uncontrolled actions and the surrender of weapons with all districts of the Chechen republic by the end of next month.

"The inter-Chechen dialog, launched by the legitimate government of Chechnya, is yielding results," Zavgayev told Interfax Thursday in Moscow. Appropriate agreements have already been signed with six Districts which, according to Zavgayev, "are heading toward peace and constructive life."

Chechnya is showing a tendency for stabilization and the Chechen conflict is about to be settled, in Zavgayev's view.

The federal troop pullout hinges on the conclusion of peace agreements, Zavgayev said. The local authorities and Chechen police are controlling developments in the areas free from federal army presence, he told Interfax.

Russia: Council Member Emil Pain on Ways To Solve Chechen Crisis

LD2202221796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 22 Feb 96

[Interview with Emil Pain, member of the Russian Presidential Council, by correspondent Nikolay Svanidze; from the "Details" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Svanidze] The president will deliver his address to the Federal Assembly tomorrow. No doubt he will speak about Chechnya, too. It is known that the president has instructed two commissions to present proposals for settling the crisis — a governmental commission headed by Chernomyrdin and a public commission headed by Emil Pain. Emil Pain is in the studio now.

[Pain] I can say that, first, we are not proposing large-scale military operations — not only for humanitarian reasons, but also for military ones. Those large-scale military operation will have no target. Dudayev's armed forces have spread over many villages, therefore, it will not be a war against the armed opposition. We are not proposing that the troops should be pulled out hastily, unconditionally, without some kinds of agreements, or

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in one go — for many reasons, including the possibility of provocations by various parties, shots in the back, or provocations by those who have no interest in the pullout. We are not proposing that the army should be deployed and concentrated on the Dagestani border. First, the army is not the right force to defend the border. Border guard troops are needed to do so.

An increase in the presence of armed men does nothing but create conditions for other armed men to pass there. But the main thing is that, under the circumstances, the concentration of the armed forces spells a spread of the conflict, that is there is the possibility of clashes with the local Chechen population -- Chechens and Akins — and the possibility of provocations intended to spread the conflict. Therefore, we are not proposing such redeployment. We have analyzed seven possible options and did not recommend a single one in its pure original form, because each option in its pure original form, its purport as it were, is not good enough, but being combined with...

[Svanidze, interrupting] The combination of pros, of positive features...

[Pain, interrupting] So we tried to concoct something along these lines by combining the pros of various ideas.

[Svanidze] So the bottom line of your proposals is, first of all, a combination of various negotiations at various levels, to put it bluntly — that is what lies in the center, leaving out the details for a moment.

[Pain] Yes, we are proposing a whole bunch of various talks. They will serve different purposes in the process of settling the conflict. But indeed, talks are one of the key tools in settling the conflict.

[Svanidze] So the main thing is that no step up in military operations has been proposed — there has been much speculation about that. Neither has the troops' pullout been proposed, which might be interpreted as a capitulation.

[Pain] Our plans include the troops' withdrawal as a goal, of course.

[Svanidze] As the ultimate goal?

[Pain] Yes, but even the agreement signed jointly with Maskhadov does not provide for an immediate pullout of the troops. Even those people understand that the line should be drawn somewhere.

[Svanidze] The commission has finished its work and the documents were submitted to higher authorities today.

[Pain] Yes, we have handed the documents over.

[Svanidze] That is it then, thank you very much, Emil Abramovich. I remind you that you are watching the "Details" program. Emil Abramovich Pain has spoken about the outcome of the work of the public commission for settling the Chechen crisis. Good evening.

Russia: Chechen Peace Commission Analyzes Settlement Measures

LD2202195796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT22 Feb 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — A regular meeting of the State Commission, set up to elaborate effective ways to normalise the situation in the Chechen Republic, was held here today afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. It analysed the measures, drawn up by a working team of the Commission, which is headed by Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhailov.

The working team, which includes representatives from all the law enforcement bodies, collected last Monday the proposals of all the Commission members on ways to settle the Chechen conflict. They are to be summed up and discussed at the next meeting.

The State Commission for elaborating effective ways to normalise the situation in the Chechen Republic was set up on a decision of the Russian President after the February 8 meeting of the Russian Security Council, which discussed the situation in the Chechen Republic. Another Commission, headed by member of the Presidential Council Emil Pain, was set up parallel with it. It will also submit proposals for settling the Chechen crisis. The conclusions of the two commissions will be discussed at a regular meeting of the Security Council, scheduled for February 28.

Itar-Tass was told by a source within the apparatus of the Russian government that the annual message, which the Russian President is planning to deliver to the Parliament on Friday will most likely not include any final proposals on ways to overcome the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

The Commission, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, includes First Vice-Premier Vladimir Kadannikov, Vice-Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the Chechen Republic and Secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov, Director of the Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov, Director of the Federal Borderguard Service Aleksandr Nikolayev, Head of the Chechen Repub-

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lic and Prime Minister of Chechnya Doku Zavgayev, Minister for Nationalities and the Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhailov, and heads of several other ministries and of subjects of the Russian Federation, directors of leading means of mass information.

Russia: Chechen Military Leader Predicts New Terrorist Actions

BR2202162896 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 22 Feb 96 p 13

[Report on interview with Aslan Maskhadov, "the Chechen rebels' highest military leader," by Asne Guldahl Seiersted in Novogroznenskiy; no date given: "We Will Strike Back"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Novogroznenskiy — While Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev was yesterday boasting about the attack on Novogroznenskiy, the guerrillas avenged themselves by setting fire to oil storage facilities in Groznyy. "Sabotage is our response to the reign of terror," Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen rebels' highest military leader, told ARBEIDERBLADET.

Aslan Maskhadov is the brain behind the Chechens' war strategy. He is Chechnya's highest military leader. This interview was conducted in Novogroznenskiy immediately before the Russians stormed the town earlier this week. The Chechen fighters were preparing themselves for the attack and the whole of the general staff was in the town. So far there have been no reports that Maskhadov has been taken prisoner or is among the fallen.

Must Admit Mistakes [subhead]

In the conversation with ARBEIDERBLADET Maskhadov appeared more willing to compromise that President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"I am ready to enter into new compromises with the Russians, so that they can withdraw without losing face," Maskhadov said.

"The best thing Boris Yeltsin could do for his presidential campaign is to admit that the invasion of Chechnya was a mistake and pull his forces out. People in Russia have to say no to the war."

Despite his mild appearance Maskhadov threatened that the war could develop into a third world war. First and foremost because it is creating instability and discontent in Russia.

"Nothing is impossible in Russia today, neither a military coup nor Zhirinovskiy's being elected president can be ruled out," he said.

Peace Plan in Ruins

Aslan Maskhadov had his biggest defeat when the peace plan he had worked out with Russian General Anatoliy Romanov came to nothing. Romanov is still in a coma after an attempt on his life last October.

Many people claim that it was the Russian security service which carried out the attempt on his life. Because of the way in which the attempt was carried out, under a Russian-controlled bridge in Groznyy, and because strong forces in Russia are not interested in a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"We had almost arrived at a peaceful solution," Aslan Maskhadov said. "Romanov had seen the Chechen war and understood that it was wrong. The plan was that the fighters should withdraw to their villages, hand in their arms, and be retrained as defense troops, and then the Russian forces would be withdrawn."

Lost Respect

Aslan Maskhadov traveled throughout Chechnya to persuade the rebels to accept the plan. But Russian bombing continued and the negotiations came to a dead stop when Romanov was the target of the attempt on his life after signing the agreement.

"I lost the confidence of my warriors. How could I now travel round and make propaganda for a new agreement? No one would trust me," he sighed, adding that he has become more uncompromising.

"This time there will be no suggestion of any disarming before the Russian forces are all out of Chechnya."

It does not look as if Maskhadov will be going on any peace mission in the immediate future. Today there are no real negotiations between Russian and Chechen leaders and the bloodbath in Novogroznenskiy this week has hardly helped the cause of peace.

"The only thing we can do is to rebuild each village as a fortress," Aslan Maskhadov said.

Show Your Teeth

Maskhadov is highly critical of the hostage-taking actions carried out by Salman Raduyev and Shamil Baseyev. Nevertheless he does not dismiss the possibility of new terrorist actions. There are groups which are acting independently.

"Many people have lost everything and have nothing left to lose. Only so very much to avenge," Maskhadov said.

Maskhadov takes a very different view of sabotage against Russian strategic targets. "We are not strong

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enough for a frontline war and would gain from sabotage actions. If the Russians bomb us, we can blow up their oil and gas pipelines. We have already begun; remember Angarsk, Irkutsk, and Komi — they were all our work," said Maskhadov, who bears the clear stamp of the propaganda war. He adroitly sidestepped the fact that the oil catastrophe in Komi came from leaks from rusty pipes. The important thing is to show your teeth and show that the Chechen wolves can still make the Russians shiver.

Russia: Army Hastens To End Chechnya Operation Before Peace Plan

MK2202134296 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 96 pp 1, 3

[Report by Alan Kasayev: "The Gunmen Have Been Dislodged From Novogroznenskoye. Dudayev's Foreign Minister Has Resigned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The large-scale operation by federal forces near the village of Novogroznenskoye, which was carefully concealed from the eyes of journalists and the public, has been brought to an end. Judging by reports from military sources, the gunmen have been completely dislodged from the settlement, losing, as the result of three says of fighting, more than 200 men. Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who announced this, also reported losses among Defense Ministry servicemen: four killed and 19 wounded. Losses among Internal Affairs Ministry troops, which also took part in the operation, are not known exactly, but according to Grachev, they are more substantial. Other sources from army circles say that the village of Novogroznenskoye has been razed, but that, before the storming, all civilians were evacuated through special corridors. So far it has not been possible to verify the aforementioned reports from our own or alternative sources. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondents in the area of Novogroznenskoye are not allowed at the scene of fighting.

This latest escalation of hostilities in Chechnya is apparently due to the desire by the Russian leadership to take revenge for the infamous operation in Pervomayskaya last month, and this had to be done before President Yeltsin promulgates a settlement plan. Even so, the timing for such a large operation, which entailed heavy casualties and destruction, was clearly ill-chosen; that is, if one can talk about the appropriate timing of military operations in the first place. After all, tomorrow the Chechen people mark the anniversary of their deportation (1944). Parallels between the actions of the then-USSR leaders and the incumbent Russian leaders are too obvious.

Nevertheless, the uncompromising position of Dzhokhar Dudayev, whose responsibility for the continued bloodshed has long been evident to everybody, is beginning to annoy people in his inner circle. Yesterday, Shamseddin Yusef, "foreign minister" in the Dudayev government, resigned. Yusef, a Jordanian citizen, has been outside Russia for three years now, representing the interests of the Dudayev regime in the United States, the Arab world, and, during the last few months, in Turkey. Some time in December 1994 a number of his conciliatory statements made in the United States brought forth anger from Dudayev, who disavowed his minister, but then relented. Yusef cites disagreement with the methods used by his boss as the main reason for his resignation. "I consider irresponsible declarations to transfer terrorism and military actions to all the Caucasus, Turkey, and Europe, and to terrorize the whole world," says Yusef's statement, which came to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. He also stated that a member of the Dudayev government made an attempt on his life, although unsuccessfully.

Apart from other things, Yusef's action is apparently due to pressure on the part of the Turkish authorities, who are no longer prepared to put up with any Dudayev "representatives" on their territory.

Russia: Chechen Interior Ministry Takes Extra Security Measures

LD2202152996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Sergey Bazhenov and Sergey Trofimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — On the eve of the 52nd anniversary of the beginning of the deportation of the Chechen people, the situation in the capital Groznyy remains calm.

Citizens, availing themselves of the opportunity of an additional day off, announced by the government of the Chechen republic on the occasion of the end of the religious Moslem holiday Ramadan, visit their relatives or busy themselves with domestic affairs. There is great excitement in the city streets.

At the same time, the Interior Ministry of the Chechen republic is taking additional measures to strengthen security of the population and prevent possible provocations by Dudayev's militants.

About 4,000 servicemen of the personnel of the Interior Ministry of Chechnya are restricted to barracks, additional militia posts are set up in the city and state traffic inspectorate is limiting traffic in the city centre. The regime of admittance of means of transportation in the

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capital has been made more rigid and block- posts on the outskirts of the city are guarded by federal forces.

In his address to citizens of Chechnya, head of the republic Doku Zavgayev noted that February 23, 1944 had become a tragic date in history of these people, brought grief into every Chechen family.

At the same time, he urged Chechens to maintain calm and discretion, and not to yield to calls by some politicians to hold meetings on February 23, which, in his view, may be used with the aim of aggravating the situation.

Speaking at a news conference earlier this week, Doku Zavgayev said: "Rallies should not be held. This would be outrageous. It is the same as to organise dances at the time of the epidemic of plague."

In the days of the general grief of Moslems it becomes them not to hold meetings but attend cemeteries and mosques, he stressed.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Feb

LD2302062496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0557 GMT 23 Feb 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — Most Russian national papers lead with publications devoted to Motherland Defenders' Day. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) leads with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's address to the Russian Army. The minister says: "Yes, our Army is going through difficulties, probably more difficulties than any other state structures. Much continues to function due to understanding and patience, the great patience of our soldiers and officers, and their sense of duty learned through many years."

The newspaper carries the Defence Minister's Order on the occasion of Motherland Defenders' Day. The minister pays tribute to the courage and stamina of the Russian Army servicemen who are "vigilantly guarding the native country and honestly doing their patriotic and professional duty and courageously serve the cause of protecting Russia's national security, its state interests."

Lieutenant-Colonel Aleksandr Ovchinnikov discusses the Russian Army's everyday life in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. He recalls that in the present unfavourable natural and social environment every fourth young man is not healthy enough to join the ranks. He paints a bleak picture: Russia is vast but there seem to exist few people capable of defending it. Resources are now mobilised to build grandiose monuments, hold fabulous festivals and build palaces for cockroach races. But no resources are available for the Army, Ovchinnikov grieves.

"The clean-up operation in Novogroznenskiy evolved into looting," Igor Rotar, a special correspondent of IZVESTIYA, narrates after penetrating the Chechen town cordoned off by Federal troops. Rotar says there must have been considerably fewer casualties in Novogroznenskiy than in Pervomayskoye and only 40 percent of the houses were destroyed, but this "success" of the Russian troops was of little consolation to the local inhabitants. The houses that were not hit by shells were subsequently looted by troops. The command bluffed in releasing reports about the Federal troops organising a safe passage for peaceful civilians to withdraw from Novogroznenskiy.

A farmer from the Volgograd region, Georgiy Skurlatov, reports on troubles facing the farmers in that region. "If we are again suppressed as enemies of the people, Russia will never rise to its feet again," he says. Skurlatov described in simple words what the local authorities do in order to suppress the farmers.

Analyst Aleksandr Anichkin (IZVESTIYA) comments on "Income tax on natural persons," which he sees as a tool for impeding the growth of the middle class in Russian society. If the Duma approves the law on income tax, a crushing blow will be dealt to millions of families and the process of forming the middle class in Russia will stall, he writes.

National newspapers offer lively comments concerning IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus' visit to Moscow. "Has Camdessus brought money to pay wages in Russia?" KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA wonders in its comment on the new multi-billion loan to Russia. IZVESTIYA says that the Russian Government is facing a difficult decision on abolishing oil and natural gas export taxes while increasing excise taxes. The International Monetary Fund also demands that the Russian Government considerably improve the collectibility of taxes in the country as a major source of budget revenue.

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Russia: Kadannikov Views Chernomyrdin's Talks With IMF Chief

LD2202132996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Michel Camdessus opened talks in Moscow today with Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kadannikov, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, and Central Bank Chairman Sergey Dubinin taking part in the negotiations.

The terms of an agreement on a $9-12 billion loan to Russia are being discussed. $3 billion of this sum already figure in the Russian budget for 1996.

In an interview with Interfax, Kadannikov voiced hope for the success of the talks, even though, as he said, "there are some obstacles" on the way to an agreement, one of which is the IMF demand to abolish export duties on oil and gas. "This is hardly feasible for our economy in the current conditions," Kadannikov stressed. Such an abolition will immediately raise excise duties, which, in turn, will boost gasoline prices by about 30 percent and will in chain force other prices up, he explained.

Describing this as the most complex matter, Kadannikov said it required a detailed discussion. "We are ready for such a discussion," he remarked.

According to the government's information department, Chernomyrdin and Camdessus started talks in a narrow circle. Before a news conference with the managing director, Camdessus is to be received by President Yeltsin in the second half of the day.

Russia: Statement on Yeltsin-Candessus Meeting Released

LD2202145296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Feb — The presidential news service today circulated a report that says:

"Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today held a meeting with the delegation of the International Monetary Fund headed by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, which is in Moscow on an official visit, at his residence in the Kremlin.

"Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Vladimir Kadannikov, first deputy chairman of the government, and Sergey Dubinin, chairman of the Russian Central Bank, also took part in the meeting.

"An exchange of opinions was held on ways of developing further Russia's cooperation with the IMF and other international financial and economic organizations.

"The participants in the meeting discussed the current economic situation in Russia. Yeltsin confirmed the firm adherence of the country's leadership to the course of reforms and their gradual development.

"At the same time the Russian president supported the efforts of the government and the Central Bank aimed at successfully completing financial stabilization, lowering inflation, and strengthening the ruble.

"The head of state also stated that the financial and economic policy of the Russian leadership will be conducted strictly within the law on the federal budget for the current year. In this connection Yeltsin drew special attention to the need for all the administrative bodies to rigorously observe and strengthen budget discipline.

"During the meeting a joint statement was adopted, which paves the way for Russia to receive extended credit from the IMF to the amount of $10.2 billion over three years.

"Summing up the results of the talks, Yeltsin stressed that Russia will continue in the future to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. Incidentally, the president also noted that over the past few years Russia has not once violated the obligations it has undertaken."

Russia: NATO's Von Moltke Says Expansion Will Come

MM2202163896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 96 p 3

[Interview with NATO Deputy Secretary General Gebhardt von Moltke by Aleksandr Golts; date, place not given: "What NATO Is Planning"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Not so long ago NATO Deputy Secretary General Gebhardt von Moltke visited Russia. The discussions that he held here were devoted to one of the most pressing international subjects — the problem of NATO expansion. During these discussions the high-ranking North Atlantic bloc official defended the idea of the need for such expansion with extreme doggedness. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer Aleksandr Golts also talked to him.

[Golts] It seems that mutual relations between Russia and NATO are going through a rather difficult period. On the one hand cooperation and collaboration are being forged between Moscow and Brussels. But at the same time there is a vast area of misunderstanding. It is clearly

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not enough for Russians to hear regular statements that NATO has changed fundamentally. They would like to know in what ways the political declarations have been put into practice. How NATO's military activity has changed in the practical sense since the end of the Cold War. Whether fundamental changes have taken place in troop training and military maneuver scenarios.

[Von Moltke] In the past we were indeed an organization oriented exclusively toward defense. All the means that we had at our disposal were supposed to serve one aim — to counter a possible attack. But in recent years a remarkable change has occurred. Of course, we still consider ourselves to be a defensive organization. But in 1991 our strategy changed radically. We do not see any direct threat against NATO. But instead of this we see localized crises and conflicts in Europe, which threaten general stability and security.

In order to ensure that these new conflicts are settled we changed the command structure to make it more flexible and reduced the numerical strength of formations. I must say that these measures are also affecting NATO's capability to conduct a large-scale war. Of course, we still have sufficient forces to call on, but mobilization and redeployment will now require much more time — weeks rather than hours.

For a long period of time NATO has been a forum for political consultations among Western countries. These consultations include a fairly wide range of security problems, and not only questions regarding the defense of NATO states. Security problems are becoming increasingly multifaceted. There are, for example, the problems associated with Korea, Iraq, and Libya. They require not only a military answer. So we are now a political organization which has available a broad spectrum of resources, including military resources.

Consequently the questions of which crises we should participate in resolving, in what form this should be done, and what kind of training staffs and troops should undergo are becoming the most pressing questions. For example, whether or not to use air support in peacekeeping operations and whether air support is in keeping with the mandate given to these forces by the UN Security Council. As you can see, they are not only military but also political questions, which are discussed and decided on the basis of consensus.

But if we are talking exclusively about military aspects, the need to participate in peacekeeping and other localized operations is forcing us to devise completely new plans and new command structures. We have formed multinational rapid reaction forces with a very small staff. As regards changing the nature of and scenarios for maneuvers, most of them are still devoted to practicing troops' actions in localized conflicts. Let me observe that previously only certain NATO countries like the United States, Canada, and Britain had experience of peacekeeping activity. Peacekeeping was not included in NATO troops' training schedules at all. It has now become the norm — which makes it possible for NATO to cooperate with other European states, Russia for example. After all, the forces maintaining the peace in Bosnia were formed as a result of complex talks with Moscow.

Let me also observe that our military activity is becoming increasingly open. Here I will note above all cooperation with member-states of the Partnership for Peace program. They have a mission at NATO headquarters. We have a fairly broad spectrum of cooperation in all spheres: political, economic, scientific. And, of course, military.

[Golts] Lately there has also been a big debate about NATO's European basis....

[Von Moltke] You are right. This is another fundamental change in our activity. NATO's European members would like to develop their own defense resources while preserving vitally important relations with the United States. This reflects the desire to create defensive structures for the European Union. Lately Europeans have started to feel that the Americans will be prepared to support us in by no means all situations. The beginning of the Yugoslav crisis is an excellent illustration of this. But all the potential of European armed forces is once again linked to NATO. The states of Europe simply have no money to create any additional structures. Thus it is a question of devising a mechanism for the utilization of NATO resources after consultations with the United States.

France's desire to return to NATO's military organizations should be categorized as a substantial change. In the past we had an agreement with Paris that the French Armed Forces would operate under NATO command in the event of war. But experience has shown that these agreements are inapplicable to the resolution of a crisis like the Yugoslav crisis. It transpires that it is fairly difficult for the French to join our military structures in an ad hoc fashion. Consequently the French have realized that special agreements with NATO are not overly rational. After all, the article of the UN Charter requiring everybody to participate unconditionally does not apply to participation in crises like the Yugoslav crisis. Unless there is a direct threat to the territory of the alliance member-countries, participation takes place on a voluntary basis.

[Golts] We often hear that NATO does not view Russia as a possible threat. But at the same time, certain East

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and Central European countries attribute their aspiration to get into the North Atlantic bloc to a potential threat from the East. Do you not think that there is a danger that once they have become members of the alliance, these states will force NATO to return to the stereotypes of the Cold War?

[Von Moltke] You have to understand the East European states. They are saying: Yes, today Russia is not presenting a threat. But what about tomorrow? You are in NATO, they are saying to us, you are safe. But we are on the outside — between Russia and the West. We too want to be in NATO in order to secure our own safety.

In reply we state that we understand their unease. But expansion requires time. And before that we recommend that they achieve good relations with Russia. You will have noticed that the East and Central European countries have recently been less persistent in their desire to immediately join NATO and at the same time fewer statements about the threat posed by Russia have been made. The capability of these countries to change NATO policy should not be exaggerated either. If any new member insists on a policy based on fear and threats, they will be restrained by other states. If Turkey and Greece did not belong to NATO, we would have borne witness to several wars between them by now. But now, despite the tension in relations between them, we are managing to restrain them.

It is no accident that in our study on admission to NATO we have recorded the proposition: If you want to join the alliance, first of all regulate outstanding problems with your neighbors. We do not by any means want to import problems.

[Golts] Many leading NATO figures, including you (I am judging by the article in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA), are inclined to put Moscow's objections to NATO expansion primarily down to certain irrational fears which came into existence during the Cold War. At the same time, quite rational arguments are ignored. These boil down to the fact that the approach of a military-political organization like NATO to our country's borders will definitely generate unease among the people responsible for Russia's security. After all, you know perfectly well that military specialists in any state take the potential possibilities of the sides into account in their analyses to a far greater extent than the political situation, which can change rapidly. And political declarations are taken into account even less. Is there a possibility of dispelling this entirely reasonable concern?

[Von Moltke] I agree with you, and completely understand the anxiety when it is worded that way. Obviously, if you consider NATO as something that presents a threat to Russia. Yes, there has been confrontation in past years. And NATO did make efforts to participate in the arms race. Today we are not involved in a meticulous calculation of the balance of military strength. All that has become secondary. We have decreased our nuclear potential by practically 80 percent. Today no one is looking seriously at the possibility of using nuclear weapons. They are something that is kept for a worst-case eventuality, but no one in NATO thinks in terms of these scenarios.

While we understand that such anxieties could exist, at the same time we want to establish close relations with Russia, so that the approach of NATO is no longer seen as a threat. As I have already said, our decision to expand NATO came into being by no means through a desire to obtain any kind of strategic or military advantages over Russia. That is why we would like to involve Russia in cooperation of the closest order. This concerns the "Partnership for Peace" program and, most importantly, our joint operation in Bosnia. It is only in this kind of joint work that we can convince one another of what we actually want.

To my mind, when military activity is separated from the political context, as you are doing in this case, big mistakes can be made. We hope that, despite such views, we will nevertheless manage to set up a political system of mutual relations with Russia, which would include regular political consultations and close cooperation in the military sphere. This would all be geared to ensuring trust.

[Golts] Analysts in Moscow are expressing various opinions about the reasons for the fact that the process of preparation for NATO expansion is slowing down somewhat. Some people see it in terms of problems in the internal politics of individual states (the upcoming presidential elections in Russia and the United States). Others say that NATO would like to take time out and see how the political and military situation in Europe develops in the next year or two. Finally, there are also those who believe that this is simply a question of a lengthy running start and the preparation of state structures and public opinion for expansion.

[Von Moltke] It must be realized that the expansion of NATO will take place sooner or later. If not directly, then through the European Union. Those countries have chosen integration in West European structures. But neither NATO nor the East European states would like to create new tension. If only because that would cost us pretty dear even from the financial viewpoint. On the other hand, no one wants to reject the East European states. Strictly speaking, we are currently resolving the

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problem of how to expand NATO without at the same time ruining relations with Russia. But NATO will nevertheless have to be expanded.

It is harder to say when this will occur. This year Russia and the United States are having presidential elections. Interstate consultations will begin only after that. Then formal applications for acceptance will begin. A decision by the NATO leading organs will follow that. And after that comes the lengthy process of ratification by the parliaments of the 16 NATO states. Ratification can take from 18 months to two years. So, to my mind, the expansion of NATO could realistically occur at the turn of the century. However, only if the present situation continues. And it is no secret that many states are displaying nervousness in respect of the path Russia is going to take. Of course, if they perceive a threat, they will try to speed up the process of NATO's expansion.

Russia: Report on 21 Feb Yeltsin Conversation With Clinton

MM2302104696 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "President" column: "Telephone Conversation With Bill Clinton"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday [21 February] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton. In connection with Boris Yeltsin's announcement of his intention to seek reelection to the Russian presidency B. Clinton expressed the hope that the policy of reforms begun under Boris Yeltsin's leadership will continue. The need to continue the policy of developing broad and equal cooperation for the purpose of stabilizing the international situation was stressed.

Key questions of bilateral relations and world politics, including the situation in Bosnia, European security, and other matters, were discussed in the course of the conversation.

Boris Yeltsin reiterated Russia's known position on the plans for the enlargement of NATO. During a discussion of the prospects for the normalization of the situation in Chechnya B. Clinton expressed support for the Russian leadership's efforts to settle the conflict.

Russia: Moscow Halts U.S. Poultry Imports From 16 Mar

LD2202232796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 22 Feb 9

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 22 Feb — The Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agricultural Products has decided not to grant new permits for importing poultry from the United States to Russia. However, poultry will continue to be imported until 16 March, on the basis of permits issued earlier, said Vyacheslav Avilov, the head of the Russian Veterinary Department and chief state veterinary inspector.

He said that these measures were caused by the fact that of late low quality products had been delivered from the United States on several occasions. In particular, the Conagra firm has delivered over 1.8 million tonnes of chicken legs whose quality, after a control testing, was stated as unsatisfactory.

In January, Russian doctors carried out an on-site inspection as to how the United States were meeting the requirements of the veterinary certificate that was agreed upon last summer with the U.S. Federal Veterinary Service. During the examination they came to the conclusions that the U.S. side was not meeting these requirements.

The head of the Russian department said that the requirements of the Russian veterinary services were absolutely justified and that their aim was to prevent the spread of infectious poultry diseases on the territory of the country and to guarantee that the population will receive good quality products.

Vyacheslav Avilov said that on 15-16 February in Moscow, meetings were held with a delegation from the U.S. Ministry of Agriculture. The U.S. representatives did not deny claims from the Russian side. At present, all required measures are being taken by the U.S. side to make sure that all requirements of the veterinary certificate will be observed. If after 16 March, the U.S. side fails to guarantee the observance of these requirements, the import of poultry from the United States will be completely prohibited, Avilov said.

At the same time, Dan Glickman, U.S. secretary of state for agriculture, has stressed in a letter to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha that the new rules "are of extreme nature and do not facilitate the improvement of product safety." "We totally disagree with the results of the inspection," Glickman said. [passage omitted]

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Russia: Moscow To Sell 360 Tonnes of Depleted Uranium to U.S.

LD2202190896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Russia will send 360 tonnes of depleted uranium obtained from 12 tonnes of weapons-grade enriched uranium to the United States in 1996, Albert Shishkin, director general of the Tekhsnabeksport foreign trade company, told Interfax Thursday.

According to Shishkin, Tekhsnabeksport had sold 6.1 tonnes of uranium worth nearly $140 million in 1995 and the United States has fully paid for the depleted uranium.

Under an earlier arrangement, the United States paid 70 percent of the price of uranium supplies at once and the remainder, following sale of an equal amount of U.S. natural uranium on the world market.

Russia supplies uranium to the United States under a long-term contract on processing enriched uranium into depleted uranium that was signed in January 1994 for 20 years by the U.S. uranium Enrichment Corporation and the Tekhsnabeksport.

The two organizations had signed an agreement in February 1993 under which nuclear fuel is to be obtained by processing 500 tonnes of Russian weapons-grade uranium.

Russia: Karasin on 'Constructive' Fishing Talks With Japan

LD2202212496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — The fifth round of the Russian-Japanese intergovernment negotiations on commercial fishing cooperation near the Southern Kuril islands was rather constructive, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow Thursday [22 February].

"The Russian party was pursuing the course for achieving an efficient and mutually beneficial agreement which would further stoppage of poaching in the waters of the Southern Kuril islands, strengthen the legal basis of bilateral relations and assist in Russian-Japanese good neighborly relations."

Russia: Security Service Reports on Israeli Espionage in Moscow

LD2202213396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) has reported the outcome of a December 1995 operation concerning suspected espionage in Russia by the Israeli intelligence service.

The FSB implemented an operation in December 1995 "to prevent an espionage action of a foreign intelligence service by seizing a Russian citizen red-handed, when he was handing over secret materials to a representative of a foreign state," reports the service's Public Relations Center.

"As was revealed in the course of an investigation, an employee of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, who worked as an adviser in the Israeli Embassy to Moscow, was the organizer and an active participant of this espionage action," the press release says.

The detainees had secret documents with information containing state secrets and a large sum of money in foreign currency intended to pay for documentary materials.

"The Russian citizen was arrested, and an investigation is underway. The diplomat was asked to leave our country in the presence of the Israeli consul and representative of Russia's Foreign Ministry. Representatives of the Israeli party did not find any reasons to protest against the actions of the FSB and had to acknowledge that they were of a tough but tactful nature."

Meeting the request of the Israeli government, Russia's FSB did not make public the incident of the detention of an Israeli intelligence officer in order not to inflict damage to the positively developing Russian-Israeli relations. However, despite the available agreements, the Israelis published several articles in their mass media accompanying them by invented facts on activization of "Russian espionage" in Israel and "a substantial number of Russian intelligence officers in the Russian Embassy in Tel-Aviv, among whom there are representatives of the External Intelligence Service, Main Intelligence Department and Federal Security Service," the report reads.

"As one of the parties deemed it possible to publish the fact of extradition of Mossad's employee with unfriendly comments toward us, the Russian party believes that it is necessary to inform the Russian and international public of the true background of this incident," the FSB said.

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Russia: Intelligence Service Denies Activity in Israel

LD2202134196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Tatyana Samolis, press secretary of the Foreign Intelligence Service director, refuted assertions in the Israeli press stating that Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service has substantially activated its work in this country.

"The Russian intelligence service has repeatedly declared the reduction of its activity abroad down to reasonable sufficiency. This concerns Israel as well," she said in an interview with Interfax.

"Russian intelligence officers do not do anything in Israel that their Israeli counterparts would not do in Russia," she said. The incident of the extradition of an employee of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, who was working under the cover of the Israeli Embassy to Russia, vividly testifies to this fact, she said.

"The espionage affairs will not worsen good relations between Russia and Israel," Samolis said.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin's 23 Feb Message to Federal Assembly Previewed

MK2302123396 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Natalya Konstantinova: "Yeltsin's Message Will Be Read Out Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The developers of the presidential message had the idea to present in the document an analysis of the transition period in its dynamics, to take stock of at least the past five years. For this reason the presidential message to parliament is not so much of a thematic as of an historical character and is entitled "The Russia for Which We Are Responsible."

The message contains several segments on the most important problems of Russia's political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian development. It also singles out the Chechen problem. As for economic matters, the document will reveal for the first time figures, facts, some earlier classified data contained in CPSU Central Committee materials, Gerashchenko's secret letter to Mikhail Gorbachev, and in other documents.

It is perhaps for the first time that the president will answer in his address important questions relating to the hard and painful progress of reforms in Russia: whether the economic crisis was caused by the reforms, could they have been implemented in fundamentally different ways, what are the positive results of reform over the past five years, and what are the lessons of the so-called "second wave" of reforms.

Boris Yeltsin does not plan to read out a list of principle laws which ought to be passed as soon as possible, because lawmaking priorities were already taken up in his letter to the lower house of the Russian parliament. Among them, for example, is a law on the judicial system, and amendments to the law on local self-government.

It will perhaps be somewhat nontraditional that the message has little to say about army reform. This is perhaps because the president will soon address the Federal Assembly in a special national security report containing, among other things, a concept of military organizational development in Russia.

Also today, Boris Yeltsin will be handed proposals by the commission for a Chechnya peace settlement, led by Viktor Chernomyrdin. Whether he will accept the rather tough position of the power ministers, and of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in particular, or settle for more of a compromise option, will become clear in the near future.

Russia: Yeltsin Notes Need for Democracy in State of Nation Address

LD2302100796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — "Only a democratic state system can ensure Russia a worthy future," says Yeltsin's State of the Nation Message which was handed out to MPs during today's joint meeting of the two Houses of the Russian Parliament in the Kremlin.

"The frameworks of a democratic state are already marked by the Constitution," and statehood itself must become "firm, solid, and capable of really ensuring the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens," the document notes. In turn, statehood is inconceivable without respect for legality, law and order, respect for the rights and liberties of the individual, development of patriotism and morality among all the members of society.

"The experience of Russian history makes us renounce utopian social engineering which thinks up an unattainable goal and then sacrifices people's lives and fate of people for the sake of its implementation," the message says. "Hopelessly obsolete are the views of those who are trying to find an answer to the question about Russia's in the choice between socialism and capitalism," Yeltsin believes. In his opinion, the road of Russia's development has already been chosen and the main problem now is "how to find a balance between self-organisation and regulation, private initiative and social protection, freedom and justice".

In the president's opinion, nobody is able to help Russia in its effort to promote civilisation. "Only we ourselves can fight our own barbarity, disarray, poverty, laziness, and lack of culture," he stressed. Yeltsin categorically rejected the allegations of critics of Russia's current reforms, who are seeking to pass off the complex conditions in which the country has found itself in the transitional period as democracy. "Only chaos and anarchy or dictatorship can provide an alternative to democracy" and thereby return the country to self-isolation and push it to the sidelines in the development of civilisation, the message says.

Russia: Yeltsin Speaks of Democracy, Separatism in Address

LD2302113696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 23 (Itar-Tass) — The adoption of the Russion Constitution in 1993, two elections of the national parliament, the

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efficient government and Constitutional court "were the first reforms of such scope in the history of Russia which were implemented without the suppression and elimination of political opponents". President Boris Yeltsin noted this in his state-of-the-nation message circulated among legislators in the Kremlin on Friday.

The message discribes a new mechanism of resolving problems of federatism and regional policy in Russia. Regional authorities "now benefit by a much larger share of the state expenditures than the federal. The regions have received not only the rights, but also the means for their implementation," the message says.

The President notes that a democratic state has formed in Russia, although the process of its construction can never be fully completed.

Pointing out that separatism poses the biggest threat to Russia's stability, integrity and security, the President states in his message that while being ready for a political compromise, the federal authorities should also be decisive in putting a stop to extremist actions.

Boris Yeltsin adheres to the following formula regarding the situation in the Chechen Republic: "We are prepared for negotiations with any political forces interested in establishing peace in Chechnya, but we are not going to conclude a deal with bandits, and, moreover, behind the back of the lawfully-elected Chechen government. We are ready for compromise on matters of the status of Chechnya within Russia, but not to the detriment of citizens' safety."

Russia: Yeltsin: State Unable to Protect Social, Economic Rights

LD2302113196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 23 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin who presented on Thursday the state-of-the-nation message to the Federal Assembly believes that the state has been unable to reliably protect social and economic rights, to guarantee the inviolability of citizens' rights. Social obligations of the state are fulfilled inaccurately, with major failures and great strain, the message says. The untimely payment of wages and pensions continues on a large scale, the message says.

The President described the economic situation in the country as complex. The message says production is stabilised at a low level while the tendency of arresting the recession is yet unstable. The crisis continues in a number of industries of the national economy.

The President admitted that in the year 1995 the government has been unable to combine the effort to check inflation with the solution of social tasks and enhancement of investment activity. While certain success has been achieved in lowering inflation rate, last year's results look unsatisfactory as regards investment. We actually have no effective industrial policy, the message says.

The defence budget has again proved unrealistic, and the crisis of non-payment has not been overcome. The President mentioned among negative aspects of the cabinet's work in 1995 inefficiency in collecting taxes, the continued crisis of the mechanism of state management, the deteriorating situation in the agro-industrial complex, as well as low discipline in the performance of the executive authorities.

Still, contrary to gloomy forecasts, the Russian economy survived. However, the price of overcoming the crisis turned out to be much higher than we expected. In the opinion of the President, the reform might have brought far more significant result if the reformers had not ignored a direct dialogue with the people, had warned them about the coming difficulties.

Gross domestic product dropped by only four per cent in 1995 while this index amounted to 18.6 per cent in 1994. Industrial output decreased by three per cent as against 21 per cent in 1994. There has been a marked increase in industrial output in a number of industries for the first time since 1990. The sector of housing construction was among the most dynamic. "If the lowering of inflation is not accompanied by increased recession, this can only mean that the economic crisis is nearing an end," the message says.

The President believes that stability and predictability of the economic development enhanced of late. A large role of this has been played by the "currency exchange band". The currency market has become a built-in stabiliser of the economy. The Central Bank has accumulated foreign currency reserves such as the country has never had before.

At the same time, the year 1995 saw advance in other directions — the forming of financial and industrial groups, attraction of non-state resources into investment projects, the use of privatisation to enhance investment activity and supplement of budgets at every level.

Russia: Yeltsin Stresses Reforms in Address to Nation

LD2302080996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0758 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 23 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin believes reforms in the

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country are doomed if they ignore the interests of the man from the street.

"To carry out reform by infringing the social and economic rights of Russians means to ruin the reform and put the fate of democracy in Russia in jeopardy", Yeltsin said in his annual message to the nation, the full text of which was distributed among lawmakers on Friday.

"The main thing which we failed to do is to reliably protect the social and economic rights, to guarantee to the citizens the inviolability of their rights", the president stressed.

He was referring to the problem of back wages, the indexation of savings lost in the first years of reforms, low minimal living standards and the division into the rich and the poor.

"Yes, we did a lot to ensure the political rights and freedoms of the people. However, things are much worse with the guarantees of social and economic rights", according to the president.

"There can be only one conclusion: it is impossible to work like this any longer", Yeltsin stressed.

However, the president said Russia had no time in 1992 to conduct reforms less radically because the economic crisis was already in full swing. "There was no other way to save the economy at that time", he stressed.

Without the reforms "Russia would not only have lost any historic perspective, but would have also faced the threat of a complete economic collapse". "The economic liberalisation in 1992 was not a planned surgical operation, but an urgent reanimation", according to Yeltsin.

Four years later "we are close to the moment when reforms should begin to bring evident fruit which most citizens would feel", Yeltsin stressed, but admitted that the results could have been much bigger had the government clearly explained its policy to the people.

"The main lesson is that the reform could have yielded much bigger results had not the reformers ignored a direct dialogue with the people, had not avoided a frank talk, warned about coming difficulties, explained their actions, considered arguments and objections", according to the president.

The government also failed to strictly control market mechanisms which triggered numerous embezzlements and violations, as well as "an unjust shifting of the burden of reforms from the strong to the weak".

"Here is the lesson - is it time to get rid of the 'new technologies' which emerged after 1991 and impede a normal economic development", according to the president.

At the same time he stressed that the economic crisis is coming to its end, stability increased and economic prospects became more predictable. Certain successes were achieved in curbing inflation, but investments and tax collection leave much to be desired.

The main task in 1996 is to bring inflation down to 25 per cent a year, to promote investments and production and guarantee social and economic rights to the population.

"Only by having done this the reformers will fulfil their duty before the people and will ensure public support to reforms", according to Yeltsin.

Russia: Yeltsin Notes Good Lawmaking Needed for Democratic State

LD2302123996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — The oiling of management mechanisms through law, without which a democratic state is impossible — such is the task set to the bodies of state authorities and management by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his state-of-the-nation message to the Federal Assembly.

The main role in that is played by the Federal Assembly as one can speak about lawfulness only when there are good quality laws, the President noted. The President said that lawmaking activities of the parliament are far from complete.

Pointing to the impermissibility of the further existence of a vacuum regarding legality in the country, Yeltsin said that lawmaking by presidential decrees will continue on matter that have not yet been regulated by existing legislation.

The President draws attention to the relationship between the new Russian statehood and the formation of strong and independent judiciary. The President paid much attention to combatting crime. The effort to purge law enforcement bodies of corrupt officials and traitors, which began in the past year, will be continued this year.

In order to strip economic crimes on their environment, it is necessary, above all, "to abandon the permission principle in the registration of commercial ventures and, most important, to drop cumbersome and contradictory taxation system."

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The creation of municipal police reporting to local self-government bodies and, consequsntly, to the population, will help defeat street crime.

The message touches upon the construction of the Russian armed forces. The topic of the construction of the armed forces will be developed in a message on the problem of national security and the concept of military construction, the message said. The creation of a "flexible and fair system of the military service" and the consolidation of the state and citizens control over the activity of the armed forces are among important goals of the military reform.

Russia: Yeltsin Rules Out Talks With Dudayev in Address to Nation

LD2302080496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow February 23 (Itar-Tass) — A peaceful scenario for Chechnya is still being drafted by the Kremlin, but it is sure to rule out an immediate troops withdrawal and talks with separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, according to the annual message of the president, the full text of which was distributed among lawmakers on Friday.

"The central issue today - is how to pave the way to a quiet life in the Chechen republic", Boris Yeltsin stressed in the message to the nation.

The president said there were many peaceful proposals, however most of them were "extremely abstract" or "irresponsibly radical".

"To demand from the President to 'end the war' or 'to withdraw troops' is not a solution, not even a path to peace, but a direct road to the spreading of the war across the whole of the Caucasus and, possibly, outside it", Yeltsin stressed adding that "most population of Chechnya are simply afraid that federal forces... would leave it at a time".

The president said the final peace scenario will be found in the near future, "but will not include only a certain single step, but a complex of measures".

"We are ready for talks with any political force interested in restoring peace in Chechnya. But we are not going to make a deal with bandits, moreover behind the back of the legitimate government of Chechnya. We are ready for compromises in the issue of the status of Chechnya within Russia, but not to the detriment of the safety of the citizens", the president said in the message.

Yeltsin stressed that the separatists are using the slogan of the "national liberation struggle", however the "main, but thoroughly concealed motive of the Dudayev leadership is to gain freedom for brigandage, mostly in the North Caucasian region".

The president also blamed mass media for echoing what Dudayev's propaganda says and portraying the wanted bandits as "fighters for independence".

"The Russians still do not have an objective picture of the developments in the Chechen republic", Yeltsin said.

He also tried to dispel doubts of the military who often say they do not understand what they were fighting for.

"All of us and, first and foremost, the servicemen should clearly understand: the force ... is and remains to be used against bandits who possess enormous stockpiles of weapons. The federal forces help the legitimate authorities of the Chechen republic to launch a normal life and ensure the safety of the population", according to the president.

He added that the separatists clearly realise that they would not be able "to keep afloat" in peaceful conditions. However, they do not have enough forces for a large-scale military stand-off and "therefore, they had chosen the tactics of blatant terrorism".

Russia: Yeltsin Address Seen as 'Preelectoral Program'

MK2302123296 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Feb 96 pp 1, 3

[Report by Veronika Kutsyllo: "One Country, One Nation, One President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today at 1100 deputies of the State Duma and members of the Federation Council have a rare opportunity to meet together in the Kremlin: Boris Yeltsin presents his annual, 1996, message to the Federal Assembly. Naturally, whatever might be said in that message, it is a priori perceived as a preelectoral program.

Boris Yeltsin can hardly be expected to submit to parliament a "problem thematic" document like his previous two messages. First, in the run-up to the elections, this is simply boring. Second, no matter how dry or "juicy" the text might be, the president, who has already entered the election race, will just the same be accused by both the opposition and part of the press of "trading on his official position" in the run-up to the elections. Third, an attempt to repeat past practice — giving everybody what they deserve, while ascending, as it were, above the situation in Russia — may work once — twice at the most, but the third time it will not produce any effect, and will only exacerbate criticism of the message even more.

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Therefore it would be very logical if a somewhat different text were submitted to parliament and the people — more flexible, more soulful, more historical, and, in effect, more geared toward the elections. A preelection message should not be devoid of individuality. Judging by the scanty reports coming from the Kremlin, in his upcoming message to society the head of state will seek to project himself to the nation as a human being, not only as an embodiment of the institution of the presidency: The Federal Assembly will be addressed not by "President Boris Yeltsin," but by "Boris Yeltsin, the president." And, of course, this should be reflected in the whole message, including its title. While the two previous ones were called "On Strengthening the Russian State" and "On the Efficacy of State Power in Russia," respectively, the new one, according to tentative reports, may be called "The Russia for Which We Are Responsible."

Yet it would be just as natural if the president omitted any specific reference to the pending June drama (nobody today doubts that the final chord of the 1996 election campaign, currently under way, will sound, if not tragic, then definitely dramatic). The president, it is supposed, should not be thinking about either victory or defeat; he should be concerned about the country regardless of the elections. Back in December KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about the trend toward "casting feelers into the future," beyond June 1996, as one method of the presidential election campaign. To all appearances, this trend will be elaborated in the message: The president should think about 1996, 1997, 1998, etc.

It is hard to tell whether the message will seek to exploit the image of a concerned "father of the nation," so often used by the president recently, and whether pork-barrel promises will be issued just as actively as this was done by Yeltsin in the course of his recent preelection trip. Yet there is no doubt that the social aspect will be substantially reinforced. The basic propositions, which the president mentioned in his famous speech on 15 February in Yekaterinburg — the full payment of wage arrears, compensation to Savings Bank [Sberbank] depositors, and compensation to defrauded investors — all this will possibly be included in the presidential message as priority tasks for the state and the president in particular.

As the resignations of the last few days show, the card of fighting inefficiency and corruption among top and mid-level officials in the run-up to elections is being played in earnest (and this is not simply a game: One presidential aide recently revealed that after the president's crackdown on enterprise directors recycling money in banks rather than paying wages to their employees, calls from frightened "industrial generals" started coming in to him, promising to mend their ways at once). True, this fight, pleasing to the hearts of the common people, is already provoking a backlash from the victims' colleagues: Yesterday Federation Council members expressed their indignation. Even so, the course should apparently be continued. On the other hand, it is unlikely that the president will make his message a place for a "showdown." But because, unlike the U.S. president, the Russian one does not read out the whole message, but only presents it, addressing parliamentarians with a speech (which is not just a brief outline of the text), he can enumerate "saboteurs" by name.

As mentioned earlier, the message is doomed to criticism in any event — whatever it might be. And yet today will show to what extent the long working stint by presidential aides and invited experts at the state dacha in Volynskoye outside Moscow (the first draft of the message was submitted to Yeltsin last summer) has been justified.

Russia: Yeltsin Message: Return to Past Leads to Historical Impasse

LD2302113896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0854 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has given an indepth analysis of Russia's historical development "from the revolution to perestroyka" in his annual State of the Nation Message, which was handed out to mps during today's joint meeting of the two Houses of the Russian Parliament in the Kremlin.

Assessing Russian history through the prism of socio-economic problems, he noted that the Bolshevik "super-rigid mobilisational model of development" was implemented by "over-straining the strength of the people and at the expense of colossal human losses". It led to wholesale repressions, tough political monopolism, class purges, total ideological "weeding out" of the cultural field, and alienation from the outside world. "All this means that a return to the past is a way leading to an historical impasse, towards Russia's inevitable downfall," the President stressed.

The system's inability to reform became clear during the years of "Khrushchev's thaw". "It gradually led to an economic coma," the message stresses. The perestroyka was also a flop due to the progressing deterioration of the economy. The most radical attempt to reform the existing system could not gain momentum under the economic control of the Party and the State.

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Yeltsin adduced figures to show that the reformists had inherited from their predecessors a bankrupt country with a system of rationing, with disrupted economic ties, growing inflation, and diminishing national income. Without real changes in the economy, the message goes on to say, glasnost was bound to hit hard at the foundations of the political system and this produced dual consequences. The republics compensated the weakness of the Federal Centre by an upswing of national movements. The Head of the Russian State expressed the conviction that the USSR had actually collapsed after the split away of the Baltic republics and the referendum on independence in Ukraine. The country was threatened either by uncontrollable disintegration or military clashes in case of attempts to keep the Union together by force, which would lead to even more terrible consequences that those witnessed in Yugoslavia, Yeltsin believes. The Belovezhskaya Pushcha Agreements have drawn a line under something that had already occurred and recorded a desire to safeguard the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation.

Russia: Yeltsin Pledges 'All-Round Support' for Army

LD2302100196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 23 Feb 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian army fulfils the tasks set and it can count on all-round support", Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Friday at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Unknown Soldier's Tomb. After the ceremony the President approached a group of Russian and foreign journalists who wanted his opinion about the present-day Russian army. "The army is fulfilling the tasks set. It received a solid financial backing in January and can count on all-round support."

The President did not go into details about the state of the Russian armed forces. He said that the state of the army and navy is thoroughly analysed in today's message to the Federal Assembly.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Says More 'Heads Will Roll'

LD2202154696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1454 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Feb — The Russian president's tough personnel policies will be continued, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stated in an interview with ITAR-TASS today. He was responding to a request to comment on the latest sackings of high ranking officials by Yeltsin. "Heads will roll. This is how it will continue for those who are aggravating the social problems in Russia by their own offences or inaction," the chairman of the government stressed on his return from his meeting in the Kremlin with the Russian president and the IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

The head of government stressed that officials who do not pay salaries and enterprise managers who do not pay taxes are creating social tension. Tax receipts which enter the budget, in the final analysis, return to teachers, doctors, students and so on, he noted. "The heads will roll" of those who try to evade paying taxes, Chernomyrdin stressed.

The Russian premier recalled that a toughening up of the tax policy in the country was one of the conditions put forward by the IMF at the talks today with Camdessus, which resulted in the decision being taken to lend Russia a total of over $10 billion for the next three years.

Russia: Primakov: Foreign Policy To Be Developed in All Directions

LD2202191296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Russia does not aim to intensify its foreign policy in some particular direction, for instance towards the Arab world, but will develop it in all directions, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov said at a news conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Wednesday.

Russia is not satisfied with the situation whereby the country which is a co-chairman of the Madrid conference on the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in fact plays a part which is insufficient and fails to correspond with its potential, he said.

Russia has "a significant economic interest in the Arab countries," Primakov said, adding that these interests "could be protected in a more reliable fashion."

Primakov said he had known Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for a very long time, since the late 1960s. However, Primakov said this did not mean that he "shares everything that this politician does."

Primakov said that after the visits to the CIS countries he planned to meet with colleagues from the far abroad. In particular, talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be held in Moscow in March, he said.

There are "no visible unsurmountable problems in relations between Russia and China which would impair the development of bilateral relations," Primakov said.

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Primakov said he believed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China will "give a new impetus to Russian-Chinese relations." A large package of agreements is expected to be signed during Yeltsin's visit to China.

Among the agreements to be signed, Primakov highlighted the signing of the five-sided agreement on border issues between Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan which is expected in Shanghai in April.

Russia: Zyuganov: CPRF No Longer Opposes Presidential Rule

LD2102193296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 21 Feb 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 21 (Itar-Tass) — Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov told Russian writers on Wednesday that his party [Communist Party of the Russian Federation — CPRF] is not championing a ban of presidential rule in Russia any more. What the party is calling for is a greater public control over the ruler and "re-distribution of basic government functions," he said.

Zyuganov, leading the biggest State Duma faction after December 17 parliamentary elections, has recently got the Communist nomination for presidency.

The leader once again reaffirmed his commitment to the multistructural character of the economy and said he opposed the idea of "complete nationalization." He pointed out that introducing state monopoly on alcohol was among priority measures if budget proceeds were to be increased.

After having bitterly described the internal situation, Zyuganov called for an extensive bloc of patriots and all the forces championing interests of the people.

The meeting was attended by the Writers' Union leadership, including board of directors chairman Valeriy Ganichev and Union co-chairmen Valentin Rasputin and Valentin Sorokin. Director of the Institute of World Literature Feliks Kuznetsov was also present at the meeting.

Russia: Lebed Interviewed on Election, Chechnya, Belarus

WS2202112096 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 96 p 6

[Interview with General Lieutenant Aleksandr Lebed by Leonid Fadeyev in Moscow; date not given: "A Swan in Russia's Sky"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The hope for a strong president is growing among many unhappy Russians hour after hour. People pin their hopes on a fairy tale hero who has magic strength and can beat the evil forces that cause countless troubles.... Quite unexpectedly, in the Russian electorate's eyes, retired General Lieutenant Aleksandr Lebed has begun to acquire the traits of such a "good-hearted wise savior." The NARODNAYA GAZETA Moscow correspondent has met with Aleksandr Lebed, one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities.

[Fadeyev] The Russians ask you many questions on the issues of economy and social policy, as well as on your attitude toward the Chechen conflict. Why is Russia only dreaming about a decent life, despite the fact that it is rich in vast natural resources and unceasing labor enthusiasm?

[Lebed] I answer all questions truthfully and clearly: The only thing Russia currently lacks is an administration ruled by its own common sense.

[Fadeyev] And you believe that your future presidential team will cleanse the cattle stables, just like Heracles cleansed the stables of King Augeas?

[Lebed] The nation needs a president who will unify it. It needs a leader who would rise above all the "-isms," all the rightist and leftist trends in the name of protecting the national interests. It should be a president who will find common interests of the "reds" and the "whites," of the old and new Russians, and who would be able to win the entire nation's trust and become the entire nation's leader. This kind of president should give people confidence, inspire them with the energy to create and develop the state. We ask the people to support our team with persistent and strenuous labor, given that we do not promise unconditional improvement by the fall or absolute production growth by January. I am used to keeping my word, and therefore, I do not promise for the sake of making a witty remark before the election that I will "lie down on a train track" or will "eat my hat" [in case of failure].

[Fadeyev] What will you offer to the electorate, then, if there is nothing populist in your speeches?

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[Lebed] I promise peace on Russia's soil and friendship and cooperation with other states. Is this promise realistic? It was clearly demonstrated in the Dniester area how Russia's military power should be complemented by political and diplomatic measures to avoid bloodshed. This became clear to Russia's close and distant neighbors. My second promise is — I am going to do everything so as to guarantee peaceful and confident lives to town and village people, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and state officials. There will be no global redivision of property. There will be neither privatization carried out dirt cheap in one fell swoop nor expropriation without compensation. Enterprises of all forms of ownership have the right to existence and to state support. Taxes should stimulate production instead of strangling it. If a specific entrepreneur has become an owner in strict accordance with the law, he should work peacefully for his own and Russia's benefit. If a specific state enterprise manager has found a niche in the market and successfully handles his business, no official from the State Property Committee should be allowed to auction that enterprise.

Farmers' cooperatives and individual farmers alike need wise support on the part of the administration, and we will grant this kind of support. Russia should be sustained by Russian land and by Russian farmers. We must no longer finance foreign agricultural producers!

Third, there will be a resolute fight against crime at all levels. Judging by the situation on the streets of our towns, law enforcement bodies have been forced to coexist with organized, juvenile, and economic crime. We will restore order in law enforcement bodies and we will provide legal guarantees and decent material support to their personnel. They should perform their duty in normal conditions. Grafters will be thrown out of their offices, no matter how important those offices are. The current administration's primary guilt is that they have turned their backs on ordinary people and abandoned those people to fend for themselves in an uncivilized market. Sated bureaucrats do not see the tears and pain of millions of poor people. I guarantee that not a single government resolution will be passed without taking into account the interests of families which raise many children, single mothers, pensioners, the handicapped, and the unemployed. Young people will feel again that Russia needs them. Only impeccable professionals will be members of Lebed's team, those who have proved by deeds that they are loyal to Russia and its people. I do not recognize selection by nomenklatura rules.

Finally, about foreign policy problems. I primarily advocate an honest and open policy of civilized protection of our national interests. As a Russian general, I devoted 25 years of my life to this cause, and I always found sober compromises in various complex situations. I never surrendered and I never initiated bloodshed on my native land, despite the fact that both in 1991 and 1993 I was offered many times to come to Moscow to do some shooting.

[Fadeyev] Rutskoy once said that you had promised to bring your army from the Dniester area to help the Supreme Soviet, but you had not done that because you had been scared or something. According to Rutskoy, the opposition lost because of that.

[Lebed] This is one of the most stupid fabrications made up by Rutskoy. I can assure you: As a highly professional general I could not promise such nonsense. Why? Because it was impossible to redeploy the army from Tiraspol to Moscow, even by air. Moreover, we did not have aircraft. Meanwhile, tanks are not planes, and even given ideal technical support they could have reached Moscow no sooner than within a week moving through Ukraine. And then, what about crossing the border of sovereign Ukraine? How would the [Ukrainian] Government and people react to the movement of a tank army toward Kiev? There was no other shortcut to Moscow. Any entrance onto Ukraine's territory would have been interpreted as a declaration of war. Thus, proceeding from these tactical considerations, I could not make promises to Rutskoy.

[Fadeyev] How do you envision the resolution of the Chechen problem?

[Lebed] I believe that Chechnya is not a military problem. It is a mafia conflict brought up to a national level. The war did not start in Chechnya. The keys to the war are here in Moscow, and those keys are economic and political. They only need a little oiling to open the lock, not more than that. Chechnya is currently a powerful lever which can change the situation in the state on any day and at any hour. Tomorrow this lever may be used to introduce a state of emergency in the North Caucasus. A couple of terminals or oil refineries may be blown up somewhere in Khabarovsk Kray or Izhevsk, and a state of emergency may then be introduced throughout Russia. Who would think about elections then? Second, Chechnya is a perfect magic hole into which trillions of rubles can be thrown, laundered, and yield fabulous profits for all those who stand close to the financial stream. For instance, Chernomyrdin said that he had allocated 5.2 trillion rubles to repair damages in Chechnya. What has been repaired there? Show it to the people! Send cameramen there so that they can make a film about the miracle worth trillions.

[Fadeyev] Are you against tough military measures?

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[Lebed] Of course. And do you know why? For two reasons. First, I have had enough fights. Second, I have understood: All wars, even if they last for centuries, end up in negotiations and peace. The question then arises: Why pile up heaps of dead bodies and produce widows, orphans, and maimed people? Why turn to ash what was created by previous generations' labor, only to sit down at the negotiation table and reach a peace accord? Why do senseless things?

[Fadeyev] What is your attitude toward the Russian communists, including Gennadiy Zyuganov?

[Lebed] I would draw a horizontal division line here. Above that line are party nomenklatura members who ceased to be communists a long time ago, just as they ceased to be patriots and masters of their land. Below the line there is a multimillion army of people who honestly stood up to attack enemies, who developed virgin lands, built the Baykal-Amur railroad, were reprimanded, suffered heart attacks, did not enjoy any benefits, and did not even know about the existence of such benefits. The picture has not changed. However, I do not blame those who are below the line. Those are my friends, my brothers, and I am ready to work with them. Take a look at current presidents or administration heads. Who are they? All are former Communist Party Central Committee or Political Bureau members. Almost all without exception. This is Russia's current administration. In the USSR, there were 18 million bureaucrats out of 247 million people; in Russia, there are 25 million bureaucrats out of 148 million people. Speaking about Gennadiy Zyuganov, he comes from the Central Committee's ideology department. I try hard to treat Zyuganov's stance with understanding, but I cannot. It is hard to forget. The backbone of my faith was broken back in 1990, and now, despite all of Zyuganov's correct words, something in my consciousness does not click.

[Fadeyev] How do you assess the current state of Belarusian- Russian integration?

[Lebed] I assess it as Moscow bureaucrats' mockery of this sober idea.

[Fadeyev] Why?

[Lebed] There was a referendum in Belarus. What hampers a similar referendum in Russia? However, nobody even mentions it. Attempts are being made to simplify the problem by bureaucratic means. The two nations will arrive at close mutually advantageous cooperation and assistance. We do not have disputes with Belarus. I think that the process is being artificially impeded.

[Fadeyev] By the Russian side?

[Lebed] Yes, indeed. Someone is playing the political card. I am half Ukrainian and half Russian. There are millions of such people. Do we have to ruin what was established in the course of centuries? Mutual assistance and trust — this should be the core of relations among our nationalities.

Russia: Anpilov-Zhirinovskiy TV 'Duel' Excerpted

964F1083A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian Feb 96 No 7 p 3

[Excerpt from TV "duel" between V. Anpilov and V. Zhirinovskiy: "'One on One': Zhirinovskiy-Anpilov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "duel" on television between V. Anpilov and V. Zhirinovskiy attracted the attention of many ARGUMENTY I FAKTY readers. Those who did not see it asked us to publish it, which we are doing (abridged, naturally). Let us note that A. Lyubimov did a brilliant job on this program.

[Lyubimov] I would like to discuss with you the main issue that will be resolved in these elections. If you win, will you redistribute property?

[Anpilov] I think everything will depend on how prepared the masses are for this. The workers who five years ago said: "Let capitalism come, we will have more," today are saying: "Return the plant to the state." We are not producing more, the economy has been destroyed, and 50 percent of industrial production has vanished into thin air. Therefore it is natural for our country to go back to public ownership. Public ownership provides a shield for everyone.

[Zhirinovskiy] Viktor Ivanovich, I would agree with you, but let us go back to 1917. The people and tsar and all segments of society owned the property. Let us determine whether it should have been taken away in 1917 and then we can decide whether it should be taken away in 1996. If you will agree that it was right to take it away in 1917, I will agree with you—let us nationalize it again.

[Anpilov] Vladimir Volfovich, what do you mean by agree or disagree? You should read our writers: Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, Chekhov.

[Zhirinovskiy] They were not around in 1917.

[Anpilov] What difference does it make? You were not around either. And when you die, few are likely to remember you.

[Zhirinovskiy] They will remember me. They will remember me well.

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[Anpilov] Nonetheless, if we read the classics of world literature that originated in our land we will see the condition in which, for example, our peasants lived when they were poisoned like hound dogs. Dostoyevskiy wrote about this. And they were poisoned by the ones who held the land. We did the right thing when we gave the land to the people. Why are you waving your hand as if that were such a terrible thing.

[Zhirinovskiy] Then why did the people who received the land, who were satisfied, why did they not come out and protect their state in August 1991? On 19 August I went out into Manezhnaya Square alone. Where was your faction?

[Anpilov] You say "I" so frequently that I am simply embarrassed.

[Zhirinovskiy] Where were you on 19 August? At 0700?

[Anpilov] At 0600 I was preparing the issue of MOLNIYA. I have answered you. Where were you on 3 October 1993 when they were shooting at us?

[Zhirinovskiy] I will explain it to everyone once and for all. The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] will never participate in nighttime shootouts. At night you are supposed to be at home in bed.

[Anpilov] Nighttime shootouts—nicely said. The confrontation between Yeltsin and the people, on the one hand, and the Soviet authorities, on the other, lasted from 21 September through 4 October. There were nights and days in there. And you could have shown up there instead of drinking champagne when the best of our people were being killed.

[Zhirinovskiy] October 17th—was at night. August 1991—was at night. October 1993—was at night. When will you start working during the day? How much can you do at night?

[Lyubimov] As I understand it, you place justice above death. You can kill people as long as you return the property to some people, the masses, as you say.

[Anpilov] Address that to Yeltsin. You can kill people in Chechnya in order to restore Russia's territorial integrity. Address that to Vladimir Volfovich: "Is it necessary to shoot up a Chechen village for the sake of a dead soldier?"

[Zhirinovskiy] You ask me where I was in October 1993. I will tell you there was no need to try to do something at night, and again by force. Take the name of your newspaper. What is MOLNIYA [lightning]? Lightning strikes a person. You take a newspaper which already contains the idea of frightening someone. It is simply that in your PRAVDA [truth] you lied to us.

[Anpilov] There is "Zhirinovskiy's PRAVDA," and then there is "Anpilov's PRAVDA," "Lyubimov's PRAVDA"....

[Zhirinovskiy] Why are we renaming the newspaper. It is now called LDPR. But I am not sure that you will gain the right to separate our people by force again. But the most important thing is that you say: "Why the shooting in Chechnya?" Well why was it that in 1922 they created the artificial state of the USSR, which burst apart? And not a single citizen of the USSR went to defend his homeland. This artificial state broke apart without a single shot being fired. When on 8 December 1991 we were told that it was no longer the USSR but the CIS, not a single citizen of the Union went out into the streets. And your deputies— Communists in the USSR Supreme Soviet—all voted to ratify the Constitution. Why did you do this? In 1917 they tore the Russian empire apart, in 1922 they created the artificial state of the USSR, and in 1991 they approved (the collapse—Ed.). That is why there is shooting in Chechnya today. You did this. You laid the foundation for the fighting on 25 October 1917. Like you, Ulyanov said: "Either there will be armed rebellion or I will resign from the Central Committee." It would have been better if he had left the Central Committee then, on 10 October 1917. But he did not leave.

[Anpilov] Gorbachev took away the party. He is actually the Judas who was supported by everyone and above all the International Monetary Fund.

[Lyubimov] But your party....

[Anpilov] My party. There are many millions of us. And my party and my state—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—lived through the deadly war against fascism, a world war, a planetary war. We lost an immense number of lives at that time, but we liberated not only our own country but also other peoples of Europe. Who were you with when Hitler entered: With those who murdered our Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] members?

[Zhirinovskiy] I would have begun the war on 21 June and would not have allowed Hitler's divisions into Poland.

[Anpilov] When you in parliament approved the law on weapons which permits bankers and property owners actually to have their own armed detachments, was that not really a way of filling Russia with weapons? I have never carried a weapon. I always walk: arms, head, and heart.

When you came to power along with the democrats you quoted Dostoyevskiy that if peace were based on a child's tears....

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[Lyubimov] We have seen tears for so many years. There were tears in 1917 and in 1920 and so forth.

[Zhirinovskiy] If either the democrats or the Communists take over on 16 June there will be chaos in the country. You must agree that a third power should take over, one that is not linked either to 1917 or to 1991 or to 1993 or to Chechnya, etc. Viktor Ivanovich. You must understand that it is time to put an end to MOLNIYA.

[Anpilov] Put an end to the dream that you will ever become president. Nothing will change for the better unless a working person, beginning with his shop, beginning with this studio, takes over real power.

[Lyubimov] I read that. "City of the Sun."

[Anpilov] It is not enough to read it. Let us say I did not read it. We can hold a meeting of workers in any shop. And this council will tell the administrator: "The bookkeeping records are on the table. How much do you earn?" Why is it that today the workers have not received their wages for three months while the director gets his every day. And nobody knows how much he gets. How much do you get, Vladimir Volfovich?

[Zhirinovskiy] We receive wages as deputies.

[Anpilov] But you receive your wages every month.

[Zhirinovskiy] Viktor Ivanovich, you say that a working person should be the manager and distributor and the controller. But how can a worker do that, or a nurse, or a watchman or an inspector from the State Automotive Inspection? They have to do their own work. Educated people must be in charge.

[Anpilov] And what about you, are you a specialist in something? In management, maybe? Tell us your biography, Vladimir Volfovich. Where did you come from? How many specialists are sitting in the Duma? Rybkin says that he is a specialist, too. In two years they have adopted 560 laws. Seleznev came and said: "We will adopt a thousand in a year!" What are you doing just sitting there? What kind of specialists are you?

[Zhirinovskiy] You do not need a lot of laws.

[Anpilov] You are specialists at lining your own pockets.

[Zhirinovskiy] We are the minority there. You are the majority again. You are doing that.

[Anpilov] We have only one deputy from the "Working Russia" bloc.

[Zhirinovskiy] I mean the Communist Party. You tell me: You have written in your program "the construction of the communist society." But the people do not want this.

[Anpilov] I do not want to build either socialism or communism. I want a person to have the right to work so that he can open his refrigerator and there will be ordinary food in it.... And, the main thing, so that I will be able to control those who are in power.

[Zhirinovskiy] Let us translate the word "communism" into the Russian language. The French word "la commune" means community. That was when everyone plowed the fields together, ate together, and drank together. It was cold and they were hungry. Today that is impossible. Are they to go back to their plows and the machine tool in the plant again today?!

[Anpilov] Under Stalin we maintained public grazing. Everyone in the village had his own cow.

[Zhirinovskiy] And the cattle died under your system!

[Anpilov] They died under your system! Because under our system a carton of milk costs 14 kopeks and today with your cattle you ship in powdered milk.

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes. I am against that.

[Anpilov] And you talk about the West. Oh you, Zhirinovskiy!

[Zhirinovskiy] No, it was Zyuganov who went to the West today. Why did he go there?

[Anpilov] Why do you keep running over there?

[Lyubimov] Vladimir Volfovich, I am always hearing that you are saying: "Crush Chechnya, crush it." If this were a child standing up, would you crush it, too?

[Zhirinovskiy] A person need not be crushed at any age. And he need not be armed. Who armed the Chechens? The communist generals (Shaposhnikov and those of his ilk). They gave weapons to the Chechens. And here Anpilov who comes from the same team is silent about this. If we had not given them weapons in 1991, they would not be shooting at us today. If we had not created an artificial state in 1992, we would have the Northern Caucasus province. A governor general would be sitting in Rostov and everyone would be silent: the Chechens and the Avars, and the Russians. We would have a peaceful situation. And the people would be divided into national groups. They have been at war for 70 years now. They did not start shooting in 1991. In the mountains of the Caucasus they have been shooting for 200 or 300 years. War is the eternal companion of history. You are deluding yourself if you think that peace will come anywhere at anytime. There is no peace on the planet. The whole planet is at war.

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[Lyubimov] If you were to wake up in the morning and find yourself president, what would be your first order?

[Zhirinovskiy] The first thing we have to do is stop the war. We must stop the reforms that have caused harm. And the others must be continued according to a different formula. Actually, we must punish certain people who are to blame. But in no case should we resort to violence within the Russian state so that the events that occurred in 1927 will never happen here again.

[Anpilov] I think my first order would be to restore Soviet power, beginning with the labor collective and on up to the Congress of Soviets, and then abolish the positions of president, mayors, and prefects throughout Russia.

[Zhirinovskiy] Men are actively being destroyed by our government. They are being sent to Bosnia and to Chechnya. Perhaps a law on polygamy should be created and adopted. Last year when discussing the Family Code we happened to discuss this. I think that the Muslims have a good custom whereby a man has up to four wives. Because if today a Slavic man has one wife and three lovers, one of which is a prostitute and the other is a single mother, that is much worse than when a man honestly keeps a family with two, three, or four. But you Communists will not permit it.

[Anpilov] That is your own business who you sleep with: with your wife or with a prostitute. With your mind have you really not found a loophole.

[Zhirinovskiy] That is just it. You have forced millions of people to look for loopholes. And you began to do that in 1917.

[Anpilov] When Hitler's troops arrived, they were struck by the fact that our girls were still virgins at the age of 18 or 19. This demonstrated the high ethical and moral level of the people. And you with your system have turned the majority of the able-bodied population into prostitutes.

[Lyubimov] Thank you for the conversation. Now shake hands.

Russia: Published Oil Industry Data Imperil Security

MM2202155496 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Article by Olga Gerasimenko: "The West Conducts In-Depth Oil Reconnaissance in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Materials for official use can now simply be read in U.S. journals. We have officials of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy to thank for this.

Shortly before the New Year the leaders of major Russian oil companies, joint-stock companies, and enterprises received a very curious document signed by Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and energy (No. MT-6490 dated 1 December 1995). In it the minister, referring to his own order of a year ago (No. 24 of 31 January 1995) "On Improving Information Support for the Work of the Oil Complex," asked for certain data on enterprises to be submitted to Moscow in January of this year. Supposedly to update the ministry's data base.

A five-page appendix was pinned to Shafranik's directive: a detailed list of the indicators required by the main administration. After carefully studying the text, the leaders of the major companies were simply amazed: In addition to the traditional statistics, they were required to submit solid cartographic material to the center. For example, a general map of the region of operations indicating all deposits — both those being worked and prospective ones — a map of roads and railroads indicating freight handling stations, airports, and river and sea ports and wharves, and a map of winter trackways showing a detailed outline of freight delivery to work projects, including for the exploitation of new deposits indicating the remoteness of freight delivery regions. They were required, separately, to draw up a chart of external oil and gas transport, external energy supply....

All these data had to be forwarded to the "Neft" State Enterprise-Central Control Administration of the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy. Its general director — Aleksandr Vyacheslavovich Kochnev — was made responsible for gathering information.

What was it that disturbed the oil "magnates" in the provinces so? The whole trouble was that the cartographic materials requested by Moscow bore official stamps — they were categorized at least as "for official use" and constituted a commercial secret. At the same time — almost in parallel — a respectable specialized journal included an unobtrusive advertising booklet announcing the start in 1996 of the publication in Russian and English of unique analytical surveys of Russia's oil-extracting enterprises. It was reported that the subscribers to the publications would find in them "all the statistical information necessary for decisionmaking, an analysis of development trends and forecasts, of the state of the securities market...." The publishers kindly followed this with a list of indicators relating to Russian oil companies, which they had at their disposal — it was absolutely identical to Yu. Shafranik's notorious directive.

The price of the publication was also indicated, strictly in dollars: One copy of the monthly edition costs 1,000 "greenbacks" (on paper, but on diskette it costs $1,200),

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the quarterly edition costs up to $700, and the annual edition $500. The advertising booklet named two U.S. firms among the publishers of analyses relating to Russia's oil and gas complex — PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY and the Market Intelligence Group — but also... the State Enterprise-Central Control Administration of the Oil Industry of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, whose leader, A. Kochnev, was the person supervising the implementation by Russian oil companies of Shafranik's notorious order.

The booklet indicated the telephone numbers of one Lyuba Lozinskaya, who was thirsting to provide future clients with any additional information. We telephoned Lyuba. According to her, the firms have an account in Los Angeles. As for the advertised publication, it really will contain information that goes far beyond the bounds of Russian statistical reporting.

...Foreign firms, particularly U.S. ones, have recently been uninvited guests on the Russian information market. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has already written about the scandal involving the firm of East View Publications, which attempted to buy up materials from the parliamentary hearings of the State Duma International Affairs Committee. In addition to East View..., the firms of Norman Ross and the Russian Press Service are actively engaged in gathering information and disseminating Russian press products abroad. Our information is also bought up through other channels — on the cheap, moreover.

"We still have not realized that any information is a strategic commodity, and one of state significance," Leonid Alfimov, deputy general director of the "Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga" Joint-Stock Company, declared heatedly in conversation with me. A year ago "Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga" was the first to sound the alarm. Letters were sent to the Security Council, to the prime minister of the government personally, and to the State Duma, making specific proposals for protecting the channels of dissemination of Russian information, including by means of licensing. Only the State Duma responded — deputies inspiredly set about preparing draft laws on protecting the information area. But those deputies, alas, were not reelected to the Duma. A similar point does not feature at all in the lawmaking plan of the new Russian parliament.

We know for certain that one of the Russian oil companies which received Shafranik's dispatch refused categorically to provide the main administration with information going beyond the bounds of statistical data. But what of the rest? In the opinion of competent specialists, incidentally, a leak of such information poses a threat to the country's national security.

Russia: Decree on Developing Chechnya Oil Industry

964F1105B Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (BIZNES V ROSSII SUPPLEMENT) in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 21

[Decree No. 89 of the Government of the Russian Federation signed by Premier Victor Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 2 February 1996: "On Urgent Measures for Development of the Oil and Gas Complex of the Chechen Republic in 1996"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Executing Edict No. 1004 of the President of the Russian Federation of 4 October 1995 "On Measures for the Development of Enterprises of the Oil Complex of the Chechen Republic" and for purposes of implementing measures for the fuel industry envisioned in the Federal Target Program for Restoration of the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic in 1996, the Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

1. The Ministry of Economics of the Russian Federation in conjunction of the Government of the Chechen Republic shall envision for 1996 priority restoration work on facilities of the oil complex of the Chechen Republic.

2. The state unitary enterprise YUNKO with a right to economic management shall be formed on the basis of the property of enterprises and associations according to the Appendix.

3. It shall be deemed expedient to create state unitary subsidiary enterprises on the basis of part of the property of the state unitary enterprise YUNKO.

4. The Russian Federation State Committee on Administration of State Property with the participation of the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy shall develop and approve the charter of the state unitary enterprise YUNKO and also render assistance of the development of the charters of the state subsidiary enterprises.

It shall be deemed necessary to appoint administrative agencies of the state unitary enterprise YUNKO for coordination with agencies of executive power of the Chechen Republic.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy shall render assistance to the state unitary enterprise YUNKO in exporting crude oil and petroleum products from its own production.

6. The Russian Federation State Customs Committee, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy will

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provide for the transfer of funds received from payments made by the state unitary enterprise YUNKO of customs duties upon delivery for export of oil and petroleum products from its own production before 31 December 1996 into a special account opened for the aforementioned enterprises in an authorized commercial bank.

7. The Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy in coordination with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation State Customs Committee shall develop in conjunction with the authorized commercial banks the procedure for transferring the sums of customs duties envisioned in Point 6 of the present decree.

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall utilize the funds received from the payment of export custom duties for financing restoration work on facilities for oil production, oil refining, and transportation of the oil and petroleum products of the Russian Federation in compliance with the Federal Target Program for Restoring the Economy and Social Sphere of the Chechen Republic for 1996.

9. The state unitary enterprise YUNKO shall provide in 1996 for the production in the Chechen Republic of 2-2.2 million tonnes of oil and the drilling of 25,000 meters of operational wells and 25,000 meters of exploratory wells, and also develop and implement measures for increasing oil production to 3.5-4 million tonnes a year by the year 2000.

10. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation State Tax Service shall grant state enterprises of the oil complex of the Chechen Republic in compliance with legislation of the Russian Federation deferment until the end of 1996 on the payment of debts to the federal budget incurred as of 1 October 1995 with the application of penalties in compliance with the established procedure for deferments and installments.

11. The Russian Federation Committee on Geology and the Utilization of Minerals, the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics shall, in compliance with the established procedure, permit oil-producing enterprises of the Chechen Republic to make deductions for 1996 for the reproduction of the republic's mineral-raw material base for purposes of independent financing of geological prospecting work on its territory.

12. The Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy shall render assistance to the state unitary enterprise YUNKO in concluding agreements with oil companies of the Russian Federation and states of the Commonwealth of Independent States for the delivery by these companies in 1996 of crude oil for processing at oil refineries of the Chechen Republic.

13. The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy shall consider the question of short-term state support under conditions of reimbursement for the delivery of crude oil envisioned in Point 12 of the present decree.

14. The Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance in compliance with Edict No. 1004 of the President of the Russian Federation of 4 October 1995, if necessary shall submit in compliance with the established procedure proposals for granting additional benefits to the state unitary enterprise YUNKO.

[Signed] Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation V. Chernomyrdin

APPENDIX

List of Enterprises and Associations on the Basis of Whose Property the State Unitary Enterprise YUNKO Will Be Created

Grozneft production association, including:

Oktyabrskoye drilling work administration
Starogroznenskoye drilling work administration
Goryachevodskoye drilling work administration
Administration for construction and outfitting of oil fields
Northern Caucasus State Scientific Research and Planning Institute for the Oil Industry (SevKavNIIPIneft)
Groznyy gas processing plant
Groznyy worker supply department
State production firm Tashkala
Small enterprise Stroitel
Starogrozneft oil and gas production administration
Oktyabrneft oil and gas production administration
Pravoberezhnoye oil and gas production administration
Gorskneft oil and gas production administration
Administration for intrafield collection and utilization of casinghead gas (Grozneftegaz)
Tamponazhnoye administration
Administration for production-technical service and batching equipment (UPTO i KO)
Tashkalinskoye technological transport administration
Groznyy technological transport administration
Oktyabrskoye technological transport administration
Starogroznenskoye technological transport administration
Communications administration
Plant for repair and production of drilling equipment

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Pipe-instrument base (TIB)
Normative-research station (NIS)
Militarized unit for prevention and elimination of open oil and gas gushers
Highway administration
Repair-operations administration
Neftyanik Sovkhoz

Groznefteorgsintez production association, including:

Groznefteklimremstroy Trust
Repair-construction administration
Administration for production-technical batching
Groznyy chemical combine
Chechenskiy chemical plant
Worker supply department
Groznyy Neftekhimzapchast plant
Neftekhimik Sovkhoz
Groznyy oil refinery combine
Groznyy oil refinery imeni Sheripov
Novogroznenskiy oil refinery imeni Anisimov
Production-commercial office
Groznyy enterprise for supply and biological purification of industrial and waste waters
Automotive transportation enterprise
Central instrument repair shop
Militarized gas rescue unit
Groznefteklegeofizika production association
Scientific Research and Planning-Design Institute of Geophysical Studies (NIIGI)
Grozny Scientific Research Institute of Petroleum (GrozNII)
Groznyy State Institute for Planning Enterprises of the Oil Production and Petrochemical Industry (Grozgipronefteklhim)
Groznyy distribution petroleum depot
Alpatovskaya petroleum depot
Vedenskaya petroleum depot
Zakanyurtovskaya petroleum depot
Nozhayyurtovskaya petroleum depot
Kargalinskaya petroleum depot
Kurchayloyevskaya petroleum depot
Shatoyskaya petroleum depot
Gudermesskaya petroleum depot
Repair-mechanics shops
Laboratory
Automotive transportation enterprise
Smelting-production dispatcher service for main oil pipelines

Media Issues

Russia: Commentary Views Yeltsin Meeting With Media Chiefs

MK2202140096 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 1

[Commentary by Politics Desk: "For Those Who Did Not Learn History Well"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin talked with Russian mass media chief editors in the Kremlin yesterday. The topics covered by the discussion did not go beyond the election priorities already stated in the Urals: wages, Chechnya, adherence to democracy. The idea of reconciliation stood out, however, in what Yeltsin was saying — [reconciliation between] reformers of every stripe and later, [reconciliation of] all of them around the current president. Yeltsin is prepared as a candidate to rise above parties and ideology in the name of this idea.

There still exists in the mass media the smug idea that both the market and democracy are here forever. As for the Communists, if they make it to the Kremlin, they might nationalize a certain number of commercial banks and redistribute something, then embrace a European-type social democracy. From whence comes such optimism is totally incomprehensible.

It was sufficient to look at the panel of the latest CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation]. It included nearly all the members of the GKChP [State Committee for the State of Emergency]. As for Aman Tuleyev, candidate for a Communist premier, he in no way appears to be a zealous champion of market ideas. The Communists are generally laconic in describing their concrete future actions. So far, they have not even been paying lip service to the market and democracy in a bid to attract more votes. At the same time they hint that only those mass media outlets that the Communists like would survive. The same goes for big capital. But "like" is not an economic category. Even if someone has imagined himself to be a Savva Morozov [Russian industrialist of the Russian Revolution era], who provided money for the CPRF just in case, let him think of what happened to Morozov's property. It was taken away — only a little bit later.

There are vacillations of another kind among the reformers who say that candidate Yeltsin is not what he used to be. Maybe. And maybe Chernomyrdin would really be a better choice. But the president stressed that he is playing on the same team with Chernomyrdin. He characterized as rumors alleged differences between him and the premier and denied Chernomyrdin's possible dismissal. "I will stand with Chernomyrdin to the

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end, we are not only on good personal terms, our families are friends with each other," Yeltsin admitted.

Public declarations on being true to the premier have been aired more than once. Now the president once again announces he is favorably disposed toward the premier. But one should hardly equate the union and even friendship between the families with the future premiership of the current premier.

Touching on differences in the democratic camp, Yeltsin announced that he is going to meet with Gaydar, Boris Fedorov, and Svyatoslav Fedorov in order "to unite the healthy forces of society before the elections." One cannot rule out that some of those who are laying their own claim to the presidency may ask for a high position in exchange for unity. The list, for example, does not include Yavlinskiy, with whom the president must be sore today (for his connivance in electing a Communist Duma speaker and for divisive activity among democrats). Now Yeltsin has included Chubays on his campaign team. He must have been tasked with dispelling the romantic dreams of Russian businessmen regarding the Communists' real plans.

It is hardly reasonable for the reformers to go on fighting each other — the situation is too dramatic. This is perhaps precisely why it was the president who organized this meeting with the media, because the men in the Kremlin think many people have not quite realized this drama. The point is that today's choice is not between good and better, but specifically between Zyuganov and Yeltsin. And it is impossible, simply by not supporting one, not to play into the hands of the other.

Military & Space Issues

Russia: New Black Sea Fleet Commander Views Tasks

LD2202184696 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An important personnel question has been decided in Moscow: the commander of the Black Sea Fleet has been appointed.

It became known today that Vice Admiral Viktor Kravchenko has been given this appointment. The new commander served in Kaliningrad up until recently. He was congratulated there today and his attitude toward the Black Sea Fleet, which Russia and Ukraine are unable to divide once and for all, was elicited. Aleksey Ivlyev has the details.

[Ivlyev] [passage omitted] The defense minister of Ukraine said today that, during the meeting in January between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, instructions were given to the defense minister to find someone who would actively implement their decisions and not oppose them. Judging from today's statement, Viktor Kravchenko is just the man.

[Begin Kravchenko recording] All the political decisions have been made. We are military people and should proceed from the political decisions which have already been made. [end recording]

[Ivlyev] The new commander of the Black Sea Fleet sees his primary task to be the following:

[Begin Kravchenko recording] To divide the fleet and the entire coastal infrastructure as quickly as possible, as the politicians have determined, and to begin planned combat training in the new situation. [end recording]

Russia: Ex-Tiraspol Commander Wins Court Case Against Grachev

LD2102230196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, Feb 21 (Interfax) — Col. Mikhail Bergman, former commandant of the Tiraspol military garrison, won a court case against Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev Wednesday.

Bergman, who was summarily fired by Grachev on October 23, appealed against his dismissal in the court of the Russian units stationed in Tiraspol. After three days of deliberations, the court reinstated Bergman and annuled Grachev's order. It also ruled that Grachev will pay Bergman 9 million rubles damages and 10 million rubles legal costs.

The court also ruled that Capt. Nikolay Sidorov of the former 14th Army, who carried out Grachev's order, must pay a fine equal to 50 minimal salaries for failing to report to the court.

An appeal against the court decision can be filed within 10 days.

Russia: Grachev Greets Troops on Defender of Fatherland Day 23 Feb

OW2302055596

[FBIS Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian at 1900 GMT on 22 February in its "TeleUtro" program carries a five minute interview with Russian Minister of Defense Army General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev in uniform by Yuliya Rakcheyeva, a "TeleUtro" program news presenter. During the interview Grachev greets members of the Russian Armed Forces on the occasion of the 23 February "Defender of the Fatherland Day".

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Grachev notes that troops around the country are engaged in their usual tasks and remain at their combat posts even on the holiday. He says that "despite all the economic, social, and internal political difficulties, and despite the situation taking shape in the country as well as abroad," the holiday remains a national event and he and servicemen in the army and navy are marking it in a festive way. Grachev adds that "today, 23 February, there will also be many festive activities, including laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 1100 [0800 GMT] in the morning and at 1300 [1000 GMT] the country's President, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, will present high state awards to a group of generals and officers as well as stars of Hero of the Russian Federation." Grachev also mentions some cultural activities that will be held. In conclusion he notes that Rakcheyeva is a reserve officer and presents her a bouquet of red roses.

Russia: Grachev Says Army Will Not Allow Russia To Be Weakened

LD2202225396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — The army will not allow the dismemberment of Russia or its weakening, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told an Army Day ceremony in Moscow Thursday.

He stressed that as there are forces who would like to weaken Russia and divide it into several states, only strong armed forces are capable of ensuring Russia's national security.

Grachev expressed his hope for an improvement in the situation with army financing and supplies and with social programs for the military.

He said that Armed Forces personnel are on continuous duty, taking part in difficult peacekeeping operations and risking their lives in "hot spots," especially in Chechnya, where the troops prevent the war from spreading to other regions.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets congratulated the ceremony participants on the occasion of Army Day in the name of President Boris Yeltsin. He said the government cares especially about the army "which remains the sole guarantor of Russia's security."

Russia: Transport Spacecraft En Route to Mir for Link-Up

LD2202230896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2100 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MISSION CONTROL CENTRE, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — The Soyuz TM-23 transport spaceship, manned by Yuriy Onufrienko and Yuriy Usachyov, is on route to Russia's orbiting station Mir.

The crew have carried out scheduled operations to test the performance of flight systems and tried two manoeuvres for distant approach to Mir.

Soyuz and Mir are to dock at 5.19 Moscow time on February 23.

Mir's crew of Sergey Avdyev of Russia and Thomas Reiter of the European Space Agency are preparing to meet Onufrienko and Usachyov, the 21st flight crew.

Meanwhile, the Progress M-30 automatic payload ship ended its mission today.

It was jettisoned from Mir at 10.27 Moscow time. Reentry of the dense atmosphere burnt the ship.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Federation Council Discusses Chechen, Ingushetia Events

LD2202184896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1506 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council today decided to discuss behind closed doors the statement received from Ingushetia's President Ruslan Aushev. The statement, which was circulated among journalists, says that subunits of the Armed Forces and the troops of the Internal Affairs Ministry were brought into Ingushetia on Wednesday, 21 February. The leadership of Ingushetia was not notified of these troops having been brought in, the statement points out. The troops had sealed off the villages of Arshty and Dattykh situated in the mountains of Ingushetia not far from the border of Chechnya.

Ruslan Aushev describes this action "as an attempt to draw Ingushetia into the war in the wake of Chechnya."

It was also decided to discuss at the closed session a report by Chechen Prime Minister Republic Doku Zavgayev, the content of which was not divulged.

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Russia: Federation Council Discusses Yeltsin's Firing of Governors

LD2202150896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — The Federation Council opened its session today with debates on President Boris Yeltsin's sacking of two governors, members of the Russian parliament's upper house — Gov. Pavel Balakhshin of Archangelsk Region, and Gov. Yuriy Belykh, of Saratov Region.

"Without the Federation Council's knowledge, two colleagues have been sacked and yet another one, Nikolay Podgornov, Vologda region's governor, is being prosecuted," Murmansk Gov. Yevgeniy Komarov told the council.

According to Nikolay Isakov, chairman of the Archangelsk regional legislature, Gov. Balakhshin's dismissal has taken his countrymen aback since "the situation in the region is a far cry from what the presidential decree says."

The head of Murmansk Region's Duma Pavel Sazhinov voiced fear that "yet another 40 governors, appointed by the president rather than elected by voters," are to be sacked.

Samara Region Governor Konstantin Titov, the head of the Federation Council's Budget Committee, believes Yeltsin "has been tripped again" since, according to his decree, Balakhshin and Belykh are being dismissed for failure to pay wages and pensions in their regions. However, according to Titov, the regions have never received wage and pension money for November and December 1995 and for January 1996. That's the blame of the federal government and Finance Ministry, Titov said.

After his statement, Federation Council members decided to invite "government representatives, desirably Prime Minister Chernomyrdin" to speak on the issue.

Answering the questions of deputies, Anatoliy Sliva, representing the president in the upper house, was unable to explain who had drafted these decrees.

Balakhshin said he has been removed for "misusing the purpose-oriented loans, provided for "commodities shipments to Arctic areas." However, the president has appointed Balakhshin's deputy Valentin Vlasov to act as governor, despite the fact that Vlasov has been responsible for "supplies to the North for two years."

Later at the session, Chechnya's head of state Doku Zavgayev is to update deputies on the situation in that republic, and President Ruslan Aushev of Ingushetia is to report about Wednesday's incident in which federal tanks and artillery acted in the republic without preliminary agreement with its leadership.

Russia: Federation Council Asks Yeltsin To Suspend Dismissals

LD2202194796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1925 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council, or upper house, has called on President Boris Yeltsin to suspend his decree which dismisses Arkhangels and Saratov regional governors, Pavel Balakhin and Yuriy Belykh, from their posts.

After a lengthy debate the Federation Council has passed the resolution addressing the president and commissioned its legislation committee to weigh whether Yeltsin's move was constitutional.

The house has found itself "in a judicial void" handling the sacking of the two governors, it was said at the debate.

The law on the status of Federation Council deputies reads that the deputies, who Balakshin and Belykh are, may be dismissed from their working posts only on consent from the house.

Law experts are to have their say.

The debate spilled over the issue of the two governors. Speakers complained of difficulties in relations between the central and regional authorities.

The ethical dimension of the presidential decree was disapproved, with the sacked governors to learn from the media that they were out.

Russia: Dismissals Jeopardize Yeltsin's Standing in Upper House

MK2302123496 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "The Personnel Question Is a Cause of Discord. President Risks Spoiling Relations With Upper House"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The normal legislative activity of the upper house of the Russian parliament was yesterday disrupted by the news that the Russian Federation president had dismissed administration chiefs Pavel Balakshin in Arkhangelsk Oblast and Yuriy Belykh in Saratov Oblast. Both are ex-officio members of the Federation Council, and therefore the house was asked to consider the question of the termination of their powers.

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The presidential edict says that Balakshin has been dismissed for "gross violations in using targeted credits made available for deliveries to the Far North." Belykh was charged with a gross violation of citizens' labor rights, more specifically "the non-targeted use of funds provided from the federal budget and designed for the payment of wages to employees in the budget-subsidized sphere, and for other social payments." In his letter to the Federation Council chairman, however, Boris Yeltsin used somewhat different wording to explain the reasons for the dismissal of the two aforementioned governors.

The senators did not overlook this discrepancy and demanded that the charges brought against their colleagues be clarified. Samara Oblast Governor Konstantin Titov even suggested that the respected president has once again been "set up," and proposed inviting "the responsible officials in the presidential staff who prepared this edict and Russian Government representatives" to the session.

Anatoliy Sliva, the president's envoy in the Federation Council, who was asked to the rostrum, apparently did not have sufficient information on the issue. Even so, he tried to convince the senators that the Law on the Status of Deputies of the State Duma and the Federation Council no longer applies to them, because the notion "deputy of the Federation Council" referred only to elected members of the first upper house.

These arguments, however, were drowned out in a general roar of indignation, with senators complaining that the president does not respect them and does not want to reckon with the need to hold gubernatorial elections in all Russian Federation components as soon as possible. So the 40 administration heads appointed by Boris Yeltsin cannot work normally either in the Federation Council or in their regions.

Talk in the lobby to the effect that a list of 17 governors who are to be dismissed in the very near future is lying on the president's desk poured fuel on the fire. Balakshin and Belykh were apparently the first on that list, drawn up in alphabetical order....

Balakshin himself also said that he does not understand the real reasons for his dismissal, because "Arkhangelsk Oblast has always been cited as a showcase for the use of targeted credits," and furthermore, in inspecting expenditures by the oblast administration, "the prosecutor's office did not reveal a single infringement."

House Speaker Yegor Stroyev decided to postpone a decision until a few circumstances were clarified. The senators themselves are convinced that they may be dismissed from a state post only with house consent, while the presidential staff believes that Article 24 of the Law on the Status of Deputies does not extend to members of the Federation Council. This, however, is the opinion of the sides concerned. Meanwhile, the impartial upper house staffers who were tasked with preparing a corresponding memo by virtue of their legal qualifications were ready to find in favor of the president, but from the human point of view, they feared that such a conclusion would ruin their relations with their employers — the incumbent members of the Federation Council. [passage omitted]

Russia: Federation Council Speaker: Yeltsin Message 'Constructive'

LD2302125096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1241 GMT 23 Feb 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 23 (ITAR-TASS) — Speaker of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev assessed the President's message-of-the-nation to the Federal Assembly as "a constructive one and realistically reflecting the situation in the country".

The are no sensations in the message, Stroyev told ITAR-TASS. It sets out specific trends of state policy that should be implemented.

The message "shows an approach aimed at the consolidation of Russian statehood, at the development of the system of power," the Speaker said. He believes that the President spoke candidly about sensitive matters in society. Stroyev regards as very important the section of the message devoted to the measures of combatting crime and strengthening discipline which causes concern of all people at present.

Russia: Upper House Looks Forward to Yeltsin Address

MM2302124796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Feb 96 Weekend Edition p 3

[Report by Anna Kozyreva under "In the Federation Council" rubric: "We Await Answers From Kremlin. Boris Yeltsin To Deliver Presidential Message to Federation Council Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest Federation Council session began stormily yesterday. The Credentials Commission delivered a report on the termination of the powers of certain members of the upper chamber because Yeltsin had signed several edicts 21 February relieving the heads of the Arkhangelsk Oblast and Saratov Oblast Administrations from their posts. Some senators

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bluntly stated that the advisability of holding gubernatorial elections throughout Russia before the presidential election must be questioned.

The chamber session agenda included discussion of laws which the president has vetoed. They include the Law "On Production Cooperatives." The senators believe that the law does not indicate a procedure for the return of a joining fee or share when one of its members leaves the cooperative. The absence of such an article could lead to a situation whereby the joining fee will simply be "gobbled up" by the cooperative members. In addition, lately a considerable amount of "cheap" labor from CIS countries has appeared in Russia. But the law makes no provision for any advantages to Russians even though Russia already has its own unemployed. The law was rejected. The veto on the Law "On Russian Federation Budget Classification" was not overturned either. In its present wording the draft law requires major additional budget expenditure. The senators decided to send this law for finalization.

The current Federation Council session has taken place on the eve of the Russian president's annual message to the Federal Assembly. It is interesting to compare the senators' attitudes to this important event last year and this year. In 1995 Federation Council members began their session with a discussion of the following problem: On whose territory should the president deliver his message to parliament? At the time many people's position was intransigent: "Why should we have to go to the Kremlin. The president should come here." But this year there has been no such talk about the upcoming presidential speech. For example, here is what Federation Council Deputy Chairman Valeriy Kokov said in a conversation with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent:

"It is good that such presidential messages are becoming traditional. A message is a unique assessment of the activity of the various branches of power, which the president coordinates. I expect the message to outline the adjustments which Boris Nikolayevich intends to make to the present policy of reforms."

Here is the opinion of Anatoliy Guzhvin, head of Astrakhan Oblast Administration:

"I think that the message will broach a vast range of questions and assess objectively all that we did in 1995. I expect the president to highlight a number of key problems and give his assessment of such questions as the Russian population's living standards, the crisis situation in Chechnya, and problems concerning the operation of a number of laws. Above all I am referring to funding for the Law on Veterans."

The Russian president will answer these and many other questions in the Kremlin today.

Russia: Council Passes Law on Moscow Joining Council of Europe

LD2202160196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 22 FEb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — The Federation Council unanimously passed a federal law on Russia's joining the Charter of the Council of Europe Thursday afternoon.

It also passed a bill on Russia's joining the General Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe and the protocols to it.

The deputies voted for the documents following an announcement by First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov that Russia had been admitted to the Council of Europe.

Federation Council Speaker Yegor Stroyev stressed the importance of that event. This is not an ordinary occasion for Russia, he noted. Russia did much to be admitted to the Council of Europe, Stroyev said.

Earlier the documents were approved by the State Duma.

The Council of Europe involves parliamentarians from 38 countries; soon Russia will become the 39th.

Russia: Duma Overturns Yeltsin Veto on Agro-Industry Regulation Law

MM2202152596 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Duma Overturns Veto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has overturned President Boris Yeltsin's veto on the law "On State Regulation of Agro- Industrial Production": More than 300 deputies voted for the previous version of it at a plenary sitting of the chamber today.

The law was adopted by the lower chamber of parliament in October and was approved by the Federation Council last November. According to this legislative act, the state guarantees rural commodity producers the creation of conditions to maintain parity of prices of agricultural and industrial products and services and also the sale by them of the main types of agricultural products and food at guaranteed prices. A qualified majority of parliamentarians rejected the explanations of Aleksandr Kotenkov, the president's official representative in the State Duma.

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The head of state's veto also has to be overturned by the upper chamber of parliament — the Federation Council — to make it obligatory for the president to sign the law.

Russia: Federation Council Rejects Bills Increasing Pensions, Wages

LD2202151096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Parliament's upper chamber, Federation Council, on Thursday turned down the bills on increasing minimum pensions and wages. The bills were proposed by the State Duma, lower chamber of the parliament.

The Federation Council rejected the bills for the increase could not be "financially ensured."

The deputies agreed to set up a conciliation committee to look for mutually acceptable solutions taking into account the budget resources and the government's position on the issue.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Bashkortostan President Urges Yeltsin To End Chechen War

LD2202225496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Murtaza Rakhimov, the president of Bashkortostan, an internal republic of Russia west of the Urals, has expressed the hope that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will say in his message to the Federal Assembly where Russia is going and how it can pull out of the crisis.

Rakhimov said that Yeltsin must at last make public his plan for ending the war in Chechnya. This is important for the president as well as for society in the light of the tough electoral race, Rakhimov thinks. The number of options for ending the war is less important than having the war ended as soon as possible, he said.

According to Rakhimov, investing in Chechnya while the war is going on there makes no sense while there is no spare money in the budget. He wanted to know who cashes in on the war and said that Yeltsin must answer this question in his message.

Russia: Karelian Premier Criticizes Yeltsin for Reshuffles

LD2202185896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (Interfax) — Karelian Prime Minister Viktor Stepanov Thursday criticized Russian President Boris Yeltsin for having sacked Saratov Governor Pavel Balakhshin and Arkhangelsk Governor Yuriy Belykh.

Yeltsin had signed a decree to sack the two governors for untimely payment of wages and pensions Wednesday evening.

Stepanov described this step as "an undemocratic personnel purge on the eve of the elections."

The opposition may use the arbitrary reshuffles "for wholesale disparagement of regional leaders," he said.

Such a personnel policy will hardly help the president during his election campaign, Stepanov said.

Russia: Dagestan Seen Heading Down Chechnya Path

964F1091A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 96 p 3

[Article by Magomed-Zagid Varisovich Varisov, chief of the information and analysis department of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Dagestan, under the "Northern Caucasus" heading: "Dagestan Is Being Nudged Onto the Chechen Path. The 'Divide and Conquer' Policy Cannot Be Effective"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Dudayevites, with their incursion onto the territory of Dagestan, transgressed not only the laws of the state, but also the norms of Islam and the jihad, under whose banners they march, and the centuries-long traditions of good- neighbor relations between the peoples of Chechnya and Dagestan. Their action in our republic is assessed unambiguously.

This cannot be said with respect to the actions of the federal structures. First of all, a "false bottom" is noted in the words and deeds of the country's leadership. At first the negotiations with Salman Raduyev were supposedly entrusted to the leadership of our republic, which did everything possible to defuse the situation and whose actions in the given instance cannot give rise to censure. However, elements of a de facto plan on the part of the federal authorities were subsequently exposed: "Unidentified persons" blow up a bridge in the vicinity of Pervomayskaya [as published], buses are fired upon from a helicopter, the column's way is blocked off, and all the signs become manifest of an

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upcoming operation to eliminate the commandos. The matter advanced toward its tragic denouement, whose rapid approach was again impeded by the republic's leadership.

For several days, the negotiations with the federal leadership continued—unfortunately, as it turned out, without result—at which even the joint appeals of the leaders of many components of the Russian Federation, who joined in the negotiations at the request of our leadership, failed to produce any effect. In connection with this, one may say that if the behavior of the terrorists was akin to the manner of a beast at bay, who does not care whom it attacks or how, the actions of the federal authorities and the power structures are difficult to explain only as a lack of common sense and an indifference to the fate of the hostages: It is not difficult to understand that the violent outcome of the tragedy and the combat operations on the territory of Dagestan signify a de facto drawing in of the republic into an prolonged conflict with Chechnya and an aggravation of interethnic relations.

The leadership of the Russian Federation forgot the principle of international practice of combating terrorism, which states: "The longer negotiations with terrorists continues, the greater the chances for liberating the hostages." Most observers stress that neither the president—the commander in chief—nor the leaders of the power structures were in control of the situation in the region. Testimony to the feebleness of the operation to "free the hostages" was its conduct by means of missile and artillery bombardment with a low level of fighting efficiency of the Russian Army.

The past events have also shown that it is at least with caution that one must interpret any information or statistics of the Russian leadership and the power structures. Suffice it to remind our readers of the attempts of the Kremlin special services to disinform the public on the subject of the shooting of Dagestani elders and hostages. It appears that the leaders and the officers of these services live in yesterday, whereas today's information technologies allow the groundlessness of such reports to come to light immediately, to say nothing of the fact that radio traffic on both sides was received without hindrance by domestic equipment.

The inferences that were put into Boris Yeltsin's mouth to the effect that the peaceful Dagestani village was a "Dudayevite strong point" look still more ridiculous. Dagestanis should realize the possible consequences of such statements, and the republic's leadership should obtain from the federal Center apologies to the residents of Pervomayskaya, who have essentially been accused of complicity with the gangsters.

Today no one can (and perhaps no one wants to) answer the question why all of the prophylactic measures, whose outward manifestations appear along the entire Dagestan-Chechen border, have turned out to be without result, and how a few hundred terrorists penetrated unhindered into Kizlyar?

A number of foreign and Russian analysts suggest the existence of ties between Dudayev and certain highly placed Kremlin circles, which is very probable, judging from the development of events in Chechnya (the constant influx of arms and ammunition, human resources, the Dudayevites' stable and steady communications with foreign combat training centers, and much else). Another indirect confirmation of this is the binding of the terrorist act with the moment of "interregnum" in the representative branch of the Russian Federation—with the Federation Council's "suitcase mentality," and the pause in the work of the State Duma between the two convocations.

The possibility cannot be excluded that the script of Raduyev's actions was worked out and polished with the knowledge of the special services, if, of course, we are talking about a provocation by means of "planting information" on the presence in Kizlyar of a helicopter base and arms depots. Otherwise, it would be difficult to explain all the subsequent events, bearing in mind that information on the upcoming action was available beforehand.

The democratic casing of Yeltsin's regime is losing its luster before our eyes (but is not falling off completely—thanks to Dudayev's extremely negative image), and to a certain extent, the social base of his supporters is decreasing, although, most likely, in quantitative terms these losses will be made up by the provoked growth in Russian nationalism. The military operations could continue for as long as they want, and actions such as that in Kizlyar could be provoked in all the national regions adjacent to Chechnya. At the same time, one cannot rule out an increase in anti-Chechen sentiment in the region and a partial transfer of military operations onto interethnic tracks. It remains for us, Dagestanis, to learn to separate the wheat from the chaff.

A consequence of the events that have taken place and the possible escalation of anti-Chechen and anti-Islamic sentiments in the regions of the Russia Federation, first and foremost in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, could be the activation of armed Cossack formations, which have been gaining legitimacy for more years than one. In response, the republics of the Caucasus will try to secure the creation and legalization of their own home-guard detachments. This process has already

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begun in Dagestan at the initiative of the newly formed coordination council of national movements of the republic. The latter sets itself, it would seem, a good goal—not to permit a repetition of terrorist acts and to guarantee peace and stability in the region. However, it is doubtful that such a formation could become a real barrier to possible terrorist routes, since the outcome of any confrontation between the commandos and the yet untrained home-guard troops would be easy to predict.

There is also the opinion that uncoordinated armed formations here already exist de facto, and conferring official status upon them would allow them to take the situation under control. I do not completely agree with this, since on the whole these formations sprang up to guarantee the work of certain financial structures and are to a great extent manned by people from a criminal or semicriminal environment. Depending on who in the final analysis comes to control them, we could in the near future repeat the path of Chechnya, but in much worse conditions.

Russia: Leningrad MD Exercise Includes Missile Launch

MM2202153496 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Colonel Yuriy Klenov: "Uragans Heard Over Luga"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leningrad Military District press center — A field exercise by a number Leningrad Military District Missile Troops and Artillery subunits has ended at a range near Luga. The missilemen, who successfully carried out the actual launch of a tactical missile, were followed up by subunits manning Uragan multiple-rocket launchers, who carried out fire missions. Major General Valentin Nikolayev, deputy chief of Leningrad Military District Missile Troops and Artillery, noted the professionalism of Majors Oleg Andrianov and Pavel Fedonkin, chiefs of battalion headquarters, and Major Aleksandr Vorobyev, commander of a battery.

Because of the extremely low level of funding for combat training, the officers keep up their professional standards by fire control training drills and contests involving military specialisms, which the district's artillerymen have been carrying out for almost 60 years.

Russia: Chernomyrdin To Run Mayak Firm's Nuclear Clean-Up

LD2202145896 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 96

[Video report by correspondents Sergey Sergeyev and Yuriy Trofimov, with announcer's introduction; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] President Boris Yeltsin instructed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to take the situation at the Mayak chemical enterprise, as well as the state program for the ecological improvement of the Urals region, under his personal control.

[Correspondent] The Mayak chemical combine is a major defense enterprise. Until recently it manufactured weapons-grade plutonium, that is, a filling for nuclear bombs. The nuclear waste was thoughtlessly discharged into the River Techa, and thousands of residents in the adjacent villages received various degrees of radiation.

This is Lake Karachay in the Mayak industrial area. Although they have begun filling it in, it remains the largest radiation dump on earth. In 1993 a state program for the rehabilitation of the radiation-affected Urals region and assistance to those affected began.

In the beginning there were budget funds to implement the program, although they were insufficient, in the past two years the funding was less than three percent of the sum required.

[Begin Panteleyev recording] On the whole, only 7.2 percent of the program has been implemented. The socioeconomic infrastructure has also been restored to the same extent. Part of the population who lived in the area of the Eastern Urals Radioactive Trace by the River Techa after the 1957 explosion were moved to prefabricated homes despite assurances from the authorities that the homes were given only for 10-15 years. But more than 700 of these buildings are still standing, continuing to house people. [end recording]

A total of more 400,000 people suffered from the accident. About 1,000 incidents of chronic leukemia were registered — that is the largest number in the world. To pay 40-year-old debts to people and to give medical assistance to radiation victims is one task but what is more important is to prevent the possibility of new nuclear incidents. Some of the state program funds were provided precisely for the destruction of the earlier accumulated radioactive discharges and for making them harmless.

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Russia: Lawmakers Visit North Ossetia for Fact-Finding Mission

LD2202133596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — "The tragic events in the Chechen Republic have a negative influence on the developments in the North Caucasus and on the situation in Russia as a whole," Sergey Belyayev, leader of the Our Home is Russia parliamentary group, said in Vladikavkaz on Thursday [22 February].

He heads a group of lower house deputies and representatives from the Russian president's office, which is on a tour of the North Caucasus.

The delegation already visited the Stavropol Territory, the Kabardino-Balkar Republic and the Ingush Republic. It came to North Ossetia today.

The aim of the visit is to study the social and political situation in the region on the eve of the presidential elections next June, problems of settling ethnic armed conflicts in the North Caucasus, including Chechnya and the Prigorodny district in North Ossetia.

Delegation members met today the leaders of North Ossetia, intellectuals, members of creative unions, men and officers of federal troops. They also went to the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, where they talked with refugees and displaced persons.

According to Belyayev, positive changes have emerged in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, and armed confrontation between Ossetians and Ingushes ended. However, peoples who are destined to live here together, should meet half-way each other to achieve peace and accord, he noted.

Turning to the situation in Chechnya, Belyayev said that North Caucasian republics should help Chechen people economically to pull out of the crisis.

Despite the difficult situation in the Chechen Republic, the talks on a peaceful settlement of the situation should be continued with those who are really interested in stabilising the situation, claimed the parliamentary group leader.

The delegation will depart for Chechnya on February 23.

Economic Issues

Russia: IMF Grants Moscow Further $10 Billion Credit

LD2202194396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow and the IMF today reached agreement on granting Russia more credit for a three-year period.

This was preceded by talks with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus during which the government of Russia agreed to cancel export duties on oil and gas this year.

Thus, the conditions on which the IMF agreed to grant Russia billions' worth of credit were accepted in Moscow, although according to Vladimir Kadannikov, first deputy prime minister, that will lead to an immediate rise in excise-duties, which will lead, in turn, to a roughly 30 percent rise in gasoline prices, and to the rise in other prices in our economy under the domino effect.

The amount of the credit was announced after the meeting between the IMF head and President Yeltsin.

Here is a report by Vadim Glusker.

[Glusker] Unlike the talks last year between the Russian Government and the IMF when the granting of credit to the amount of 6 billion [currency not specified] was postponed, this year the talks were not so much smooth as amazingly quick.

Michel Camdessus approved the granting to our country of an unprecedented $10 billion for a three-year period at the first go.

It became known this morning that the agreement will be signed after the meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin and Michel Camdessus, which took place behind closed doors and lasted three hours instead of the 45 minutes allocated under the protocol.

In connection with this, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Michel Camdessus, who were already late for their meeting with the president, refused to reply to journalists' questions, just making short remarks literally on the hoof.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] In principle everything is alright. There simply is not the time. [end recording]

[Glusker] Michel Camdessus noted that he will announce the amount of the credit and the mechanism for granting it only after he had met the president of Russia.

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In his turn, Boris Yeltsin said in the Kremlin that it will be a crime on the part of the IMF not to support Russia now. The president noted that, despite the fact that the Russian Government has fulfilled all the conditions concerning last year's credit, the last part of the credit had been granted only in February 1996, not in December 1995, as was planned earlier.

Nevertheless, today, on the basis of the results of the meeting in the Kremlin, Boris Yeltsin and Michel Camdessus adopted a joint statement opening the way for Russia to receive credit to the sum of $10 billion.

Michel Camdessus himself announced the mechanism for granting it at his news conference. It only became possible to receive the credit when the Russian Government announced that it will annul all export duties over the next month, and our country will receive $4 billion throughout the course of 1996, starting from April. The IMF will keep a strict eye on how the Russian side uses the credit, since it should be used only to strengthen the country's hard currency reserves.

In reply to the question as to whether the IMF was not afraid that the money that had been allocated will be used for the Chechen campaign, Michel Camdessus answered that the IMF does not interfere in Russia's internal affairs, noting that money for Chechnya is allocated only from the federal budget.

As far as the future presidential elections and the possibility of a change of government were concerned, Michel Camdessus noted that the Fund agreed to work with any government. However, if the new Russian authorities were in open opposition to the Fund, then the granting of credit will be stopped immediately.

Russia: Chernomyrdin: Oil, Gas Tariffs To Be Scrapped

LD2202223396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1823 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told Russian news agencies on Thursday that Russia will scrap oil and gas export tariffs from Jun 1, 1996 as a condition of a ten-billion-dollar loan starting from this year.

Terms of the loan were agreed by Russian leaders and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier today. The meeting, held on Thursday afternoon, involved President Boris Yeltsin, the premier, and IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus. At the meeting, Camdessus received Yeltsin's written guarantees that Russia will stick to the terms of agreement with the IMF.

Chernomyrdin said the government and the Central Bank on Thursday signed a joint statement on co-ordinated financial and economic policy for 1996 to comply with the IMF conditions, the elimination of oil and gas tariffs and tighter internal tax policy.

Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, who participated in the first stage of the talks, told Tass that tax collection was the number-one problem because ways to form budget revenues were the major hurdle at this stage.

Chernomyrdin said the cabinet planned to scrap the tariffs already in 1995 but failed to map measures to offset budget losses which the proposed ban entailed. At the present stage, the Finance, Economic, and Fuel and Energy Ministries have been charged with shortly finding an alternative scheme of how to replenish national budget given no further revenues from export tariffs. From April 1, oil and gas tariffs are to be brought down to 10 percent as an intermediate step.

Chernomyrdin said he was satisfied with the talks' results and viewed the IMF positive loan decision as an indication of growing international confidence in Russia.

Asked whether Chechen developments influenced Russia's talks with major investors, the premier noted that "in the recent times, Western partners have not asked such questions at meetings like this."

"Chechnya is our pain and our trouble. It is part of Russia, and nobody will solve its problems for us, including the restoration of its wartorn economy. On the other hand, we will let nobody intervene in settling our internal problems," he stressed.

Russia: Camdessus on Details of IMF Assistance Program

LD2202230796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 22 (Itar-Tass) — The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Michel Camdessus, said at a news conference held in the press centre of the Russian Foreign Ministry today that he would recommend to the IMF board of directors to grant an extended facility credit to Russia.

An IMF official statement on this issue is very likely to be made in late March or in early April after a detailed study of all documents received from the Russian government, Camdessus added.

In accordance with the programme, the credit of ten billion U.S. dollars is to come in 1996-1998, with over

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four billion U.S. dollar disbursement earmarked for 1996, he informed.

Disbursements will be related to IMF's monthly monitoring of the Russian economy. The Russian government has submitted all necessary documents for receiving this credit, the managing director said.

Camdessus voiced satisfaction with the results of his talks with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He quoted the Russian government as pledging its readiness to cancel within several months the export duties on oil and gas while taking a number of compensation measures.

According to Camdessus, experts of the fund expect that the consistent implementation by the Russian government of the IMF three-year programme will allow to achieve a stable economic growth, the relaxation of social tension in society and a rise in employment.

It is envisaged, in particular, that the inflation level at the end of 1996 will be 1 per cent per month. The budget deficit will be reduced to 4 per cent in 1996, and to 3 per cent — in 1997, and 2 per cent — in 1998, correspondingly, he informed.

IMF experts, Camdessus said, back decisions of the Russian government aimed at repaying its wage indebtedness to workers in the budget financed organisations believing that there are sufficient financial resources for this.

In his view, first of all, it is necessary to reduce expenditure, increase budget receipts, and organise efficient work of related services engaged in tax collection.

Financial resources of the International Monetary Fund will not be used for paying wages as they are intended only for the implementation of structural reforms in the economy and the improvement of the macroeconomics situation in Russia, the IMF managing director pointed out.

The aid assistance programme offered to Russia is very effective. However, if in the future a new government considers it impossible to follow this plan, the fund will respect such a decision. In this event the financial support to Russia will be suspended until the situation is made clear by way of a dialogue, Michel Camdessus accentuated.

Russia: Kadannikov on Opposition To Privatizing Banks, Other Issues

MM2202141096 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 2

[Report on interview with Russian First Vice Premier Vladimir Kadannikov by correspondent Yelena Ishkova; date, place not given: "Vladimir Kadannikov Is Against Dead Flies in Inkwells"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new vice premier has "opened up" to journalists. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent asked him a number of questions in connection with his new duties. Vladimir Vasilyevich [Kadannikov]'s promotion to Moscow coincided with the start of an adjustment to the government's economic policy. What does he think about the key features of the new strategy?

Even before Kadannikov came to the "White House," he was spoken of as an economic manager with rather anti-market inclinations. And for people like that, the commercial banks are the biggest thorn in the flesh. So it was all the more surprising to hear Vladimir Vasilyevich express a negative attitude to the nationalization of these banks. It was just before our conversation that Minister Kulikov put forward that idea in the heat of the moment.

"When people talk about nationalizing the banks, I picture an inkwell with a dead fly in it, next to a chewed pen and a bit of dirty string from a bundle of papers," Vladimir Vasilyevich said. It seems that the former VAZ [Volga Motor Vehicle Plant] general director is not only a thoughtful man, but a man who can express an idea vividly and graphically. Kadannikov promptly swept aside the speculation about conservativeness and commitment to state regulation. Even in the years of stagnation VAZ used to sell only 40 percent of its vehicles through the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply.

So Kadannikov's duties, as he reported in conversation with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent, will not include privatization questions. That is the only thing he did not inherit from Anatoliy Chubays. All the same, he has formed his own opinion of how it should be continued.

"Privatization should take place not from above, but from below, and the state should ensure that it is advantageous to collectives to buy up the state blocks of shares. At the moment, state property is scarcely managed at all. This should be the concern of specialists who are capable of assessing which state enterprises could be profitable and which should be gotten rid of. The loans-for-shares auctions of late 1995 did not and could not produce the required result. But if their outcome needs examining, it should be done strictly on an individual basis, and no resolute measures to revise these results are planned."

Another surprise — Kadannikov is opposed to import restrictions. Strange, to say the least, for a former leader of VAZ, an enterprise that suffers from the dominance

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of foreign makes. It seems that the Ministry of the Economy, which he is now responsible for instead of Chubays, was considering the question of supporting domestic producers through an additional "load" on imports.

"I am against such measures," Vladimir Vasilyevich said. "This would not be support, but a revival of the hothouse conditions our producers used to live in before. And basically a prolongation of the crisis. Domestic producers must be helped, and a package of government documents is now expected on this matter. This does not mean that the new vice premier is in favor of unjustified budget injections. [no closing quotemarks as published]

"I am protecting the budget law," he stressed. "Certain sector ministers believe it is possible to extinguish budget debts amounting to 20 trillion relatively painlessly, by means of emissions. But that will lead to inflation growing not by the same sum, but by a much bigger one. There will be a rise in the discount rate on state bonds, which will have to be paid for. Relations with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and with the IMF will change."

In short, he intends to continue the policy, begun by the government, of curbing inflation. In December it reached an unprecedentedly low level — 3.5 percent. It will be possible to hold it at a level of 3.8 percent per month in the first quarter, and to bring it down to 1.9 percent by the middle of the year. Such statements, coming from a leader who brought such a substantial baggage with him to the government, sound even more convincing than coming from Chubays. Kadannikov is not going to make empty promises. However, his support for the government's financial toughness is understandable, although its high social cost must, of course, be reduced. As a past economic manager, he realizes that in conditions of high inflation it is impossible to develop production. And right now there is a hope of boosting production in 1996.

By replacing Anatoliy Chubays with Vladimir Kadannikov, Boris Yeltsin has apparently kept both sides happy. He has pleased those who did not like the "chief reformer," but he has also brought into the government one of the captains of Russian industry who is, however, prepared to continue a tough financial policy and safeguard the budget, while at the same time reducing the social cost of reforms.

Russia: Congress of Small Businesses Opens

MM2202150696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Dokuchayev and Igor Karpenko: "Small Business Declares Its Interests Loud and Clear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The First All-Russia Congress of Representatives of Small Enterprises began work in Moscow 19 February.

In a breach with tradition, the congress did not begin with a ceremonial session. On the first day of work the 3,500 delegates from all regions of Russia dispersed among two dozen Russian Federation ministries and state committees. During meetings with these departments' leadership vital questions concerning collaboration with the federal authorities, anomalies in the legislative base, and the reduction of the colossal tax pressure were discussed. Congress delegates believe that without solutions to these questions small business simply has no development prospects.

Small enterprise has been developing in the country in one form or another for around 10 years now; nevertheless, it is only now that its representatives are gathering for their first congress. As such a mass event is taking place in the runup to the presidential elections, the question that naturally arises is that of its political commitment and desire to express mass support for one or other candidate for the top post.

But IZVESTIYA's correspondent was assured by the organizers (who include the Council for Industrial Policy and Enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the State Committee for the Support and Development of Small Enterprise) the date of the congress is by no means to be explained by the current political situation. It is simply that in various sectors of the economy and the regions small business has already developed ramified structures uniting millions of people. These public organizations sent their delegates to Moscow.

"The delegates can hold any political views, but they are united by common professional problems. The time has come to formulate and publicize our corporate interests," Vladimir Gubernatorov, one of the organizers of the congress, stated.

As for the plenary session, it is to take place 20 February in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. Leaders of all branches of power are expected to take part.

At the request of IZVESTIYA's editorial office, Yuriy Pimoshenko, chairman of the congress' organizational committee and president of the Union of Innovation

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Enterprises, spoke about the problems facing small business.

[Pimoshenko] It is well known that, unfortunately, the state of small enterprise today is simply pitiful. Even from the statistics it can be seen that the number of these enterprises has begun to shrink.

On the other hand, we are entitled to say today that small enterprises have become a definite force, and that they are necessary to society and to the people of Russia. These enterprises today employ almost 20 million people who receive their main or supplementary income from them. In addition, small enterprises now provide a large share of those tax funds that the state is still collecting. The budgets of many cities are literally supported by small business. In Moscow, for example, 51 percent of the city budget comes from small enterprises. In Zelenograd and the entire Republic of Ingushetia the figure is 80 percent. All this suggests that small business is the future, and needs state support.

The state is well and truly confronted by this stupid problem — stupid because we drove ourselves into a corner. For many years we invested almost nothing in industry and destroyed the country's industrial potential. It must be restored.

But we must now think about where to start restoring it. And if the small crumbs of investment which the state does have are to be used with maximum effectiveness, they should be invested in small business. Only small business will provide a quick return. And if judicious changes are also made to the tax system so as to induce the entrepreneur to pay his taxes readily, there will also be money for investments in large-scale industry.

But to begin directly with large-scale industry today would mean to "freeze" money for a long period, to create a dearth of commodities, and to leave the population without funds. In addition, in investing in large-scale industry we are not always sure as to the correctness of the decisions adopted — the product of the restored production process may no longer be wanted by the consumer by the time that it is produced. But small business is geared directly toward the market — if there is a demand for a product, it satisfies it immediately. Therefore, in terms of time, efficiency, and economy, small business is today preferable for Russia. Suffice to say that job creation is seven times cheaper in small business than in large-scale industry, and capital expenditure is naturally far lower.

It is no accident that today all the major Western financial structures whose leaders I have been able to talk with are switching their attention from privatization to small business. There is also an interesting testimony to the public support for it: The presidential apparatus' analytical center, studying the results of the recent Duma elections, discovered that there are two points in the programs of all the parties without exception around which there is universal public consensus: support for small business, and changing the tax system in favor of the entrepreneur.

Russia: Government Decree on Poultry Import Duty Rates

MM2302085596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 21

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 84, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin and dated 31 January 1996: "On Partial Changes to the Customs Import Duty Rates Ratified by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 454 'On the Ratification of Customs Import Duty Rates' of 6 May 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The rates of customs duty applied to certain types of foodstuffs imported into Russian Federation customs territory shall be ratified and come into force 1 February 1996 as per the appendix, partially amending the customs import duty rates ratified by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 454 "On the Ratification of Customs Import Duty Rates" of 6 May 1995 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, No. 20, 1995, p. 1806).

2. The sums raised from increasing the customs import duty rates for fresh, chilled, or frozen chicken shall be channeled into financial support for Russian poultry farming.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] Moscow, 31 January 1996
No. 84

Appendix

Customs Import Duty Rates

Goods Code Under Foreign Economic Activity Commodity Classification

0207 10 110-

0207 10 190,
0207 10 900,
0207 21,
0207 23 900,
0207 39 110-

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0207 39 250,
0207 39 550 (excluding duck),
0207 39 630,
0207 39 650-
0207 39 670 (excluding duck and goose),
0207 39 730 (excluding duck),
0207 39 770 (excluding duck),
0207 39 830 (excluding duck and goose),
0207 41 100-
0207 41 710,
0207 43 150 (excluding duck),
0207 43 250,
0207 43 310-,
0207 43 410 (excluding duck and goose),
0207 43 530 (excluding duck),
0207 43 630 (excluding duck),
0207 43 810 (excluding duck and goose)

Shortened Name of Product [subtitle] (Footnote) (For the purposes of applying customs import duty, products are defined solely by their foreign economic activity commodity classification code. The shortened product name is cited purely for convenience)

Fresh, chilled, or frozen chicken.

Duty Rate (As Percentage of Customs Value Or in Ecus)

30, but not less than 0.35 Ecus per kilo.

Russia: Better Tax Collection Seen as Key Budget Revenue Source

MK2302062596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Vladislav Kuzmichev: "Problems With Budget Execution. As of 20 February Only 12 Trillion of the [Expected] 46 Trillion Rubles Have Come to the Treasury"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov has told an expanded ministry collegium session that in 1996 budget revenues will be increased by improving tax collection, streamlining collection methods, and invigorating the state securities market with a transition to longer maturity terms and linkage to the effectiveness of currency operations.

Even so, at present, the implementation of the federal budget remains a problem that is connected with a number of factors.

First, as of 20 February, of the 46 trillion rubles planned for this month, only 12 trillion have come to the treasury, more than 6 trillion of which was raised on the state securities market.

Second, in the very near future, 3.7 trillion rubles of the 1995 debt are to be retired, 1.7 trillion of which is due to the power structures. The appearance of an internal debt in the amount of nearly 4 trillion rubles, according to Mr. Panskov, results from the costs, unplanned for in the federal budget, of rebuilding Chechnya's economic and social sphere, compensating importers for losses arising from the abolition of customs exemptions, and providing budgetary loans to the Pension Fund.

Third, Vladimir Panskov said, a number of ministries have exceeded the wage increase ceiling envisioned in the 1996 budget. According to him, "the government has granted the defense and internal ministers license to introduce 25-percent increments for some categories of military servicemen. And they have given increments to everybody." This debt is to be retired in March.

The government is planning to improve tax collection by tightening control of the activity of commercial structures. According to Vladimir Panskov, many financial brokerage and some other private companies either pay no taxes at all or minimize their tax assessments by all means available. Therefore, the minister believes that, in their work, tax and financial agencies should place the main emphasis on them. The full payment of taxes due will, apart from other things, help create more decisive reductions in the tax burden on production enterprises.

According to the Finance Minister, it is also necessary to tighten control of the movement of cash. Financial settlements between suppliers are mostly effected either by mutual clearing or by cash. In particular, in 1995 noncash payments in the fuel and energy complex accounted for only 30 percent. In effect, enterprises have evaded taxation. In this connection during the current year compulsory identification numbers will be used on all payment and settlement documents, which should tighten their oversight.

The minister believes that higher budget revenues in 1996 will also be facilitated by the restoration of state control of the distribution of alcoholic beverages, streamlining tax procedures for small businesses, and restructuring the enterprise debt. It is essential to ensure timely collection of privatization revenues. Their amount in this year's budget is set at 13 trillion rubles, he stressed. Yet it is not going to be easy to raise such a sum, because the recent scandals over loans-for-shares auctions have somewhat dampened the enthusiasm of the Russian financial establishment.

The Russian Finance Ministry also advocates a procedure for income declaration by citizens who make large acquisitions, which would serve to replenish local budgets. So far, however, this idea has not received support in the government.

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Furthermore, in 1996, a substantial share of the internal debt-servicing burden will be borne by the state securities market. There are plans to issue seven tranches of state saving-loan bonds and to launch internal dollar-denominated loan bonds worth up to $3.5 billion, with a maturity term of 10-15 years. The issue of long-term currency loan bonds, according to Vladimir Panskov, will yield approximately $1 billion to the state budget this year.

Russia: IMF Director Comments on New Credit Agreement

LD2202154596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1503 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By BIZNES-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — "I will recommend that the International Monetary Fund's board of directors issue an extended financing facility to Russia," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a news conference in the Foreign Ministry press center today.

Russia will receive $10 billion between now and 1998 as part of the plan, and over $4 billion dollars should be disbursed this year.

The money will be paid out on the basis of monthly monitoring of the Russian economy. All the necessary paperwork for the credit has already arrived at the Russian Government.

Camdessus expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He said the government consented to abolish export duties on oil and gas within a few months as an advance condition to receive the loan.

Russia: Small Businesses Now Employ More Than 14 Million People

MM2302114896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Dokuchayev: "14 Million Russians Involved With Small Businesses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are more than 900,000 small enterprises in Russia (18 percent of them in Moscow and 7 percent in St. Petersburg), employing more than 14 million people. Those figures have been published by Vyacheslav Prokhorov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Support and Development of Small Business. Despite the fact that the bulk of small businesses are concentrated in the trading and public catering sectors, the proportion of small enterprises in construction and industry has recently increased to 27 percent of the total. Small businesses account for one-fifth of the total profits produced in the country, even though they use only 3.5 percent of Russian industry's fixed capital. The 1996 budget has envisaged the allocation of 386.6 billion rubles to fund the Federal Program for the Support and Development of Small Business, our correspondent Dmitriy Dokuchayev reports.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Clinton, Kuchma Appreciate Expanded Bilateral Cooperation

LD2202131696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1214 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, Feb 22 (INTERFAX-Ukraine) — Ukrainian and U.S. presidents Kuchma and Clinton appreciate expanded Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation in the political field.

In a joint press statement Kuchma and Clinton stressed the need for strengthening undivided Europe and stepped-up efforts for European security.

Bill Clinton praised the Ukrainian contribution to the peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans, in particular, moves by the Ukrainian battalion of the task force for the realization of the Dayton agreement.

Before opening talks with the visiting Ukrainian President, Clinton told newsmen Wednesday in Washington that the United States was determined to support moves for Ukrainian sovereignty and independence and hailed Ukraine's painstaking steps on the road for reform.

Kuchma reaffirmed his intention to "build a modern democracy." He was happy the United States offered support to Ukraine.

Kuchma saw 1996 as a critical year in Ukrainian history and thanked the United States for support of his reform strategies.

He and his U.S. counterpart agreed that Ukraine must get reimbursement for the handover of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia and the United States would do everything for the realization of that agreement, Kuchma said after the end of the talks.

Bill Clinton welcomed an official Ukrainian delegation to the upcoming G-7 summit and called for a constructive approach to the Chernobyl problem. The G-7 summit is due to be held on April 19 and 20 in Moscow. It will focus on nuclear security.

Kuchma stressed the advisability of placing the Chernobyl problem on the agenda of the upcoming G-7 summit.

Ukraine was ready to meet its pledge to close the Chernobyl nuclear plant by the year of 2000 if the West was ready to offer it appropriate financial aid, Kuchma said.

Also Wednesday Kuchma met with U.S. vice-President Al Gore who said the United States, other G-7 countries and international financial organizations were prepared to offer Ukraine more loans for the comprehensive solution of the Chernobyl problem.

Ukraine: Kuchma Proposes Joint Energy Commission With U.S.

LD2202140096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, Feb 22 (INTERFAX-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma proposed the creation of a joint commission on energy problems to U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

Kuchma and Gore must head this commission in line with the Ukrainian proposals, secretary of Ukraine's National Security Council Vladimir Gorbulin told a press conference in Washington.

The problem of Ukraine's energy dependence "was the major subject of the talks between the country's president and the U.S. vice president," Gorbulin said.

In particular, they discussed problems related to Chernobyl and the need to take advantage of the Group of Seven summit in Moscow devoted to nuclear safety for final solution of the Chernobyl problems, Gorbulin said.

Ukraine: Kuchma Praises U.S. Support for Economic Reforms

LD2202211396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" No. 26 of 1029 by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. and Ukrainian Presidents Bill Clinton and Leonid Kuchma in a statement after talks in Washington on Wednesday said they were both satisfied with growing political cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the talks, Kuchma said the United States "has been the guarantor of Ukraine's economic and political sovereignty since it won independence." He reaffirmed commitment to build "a modern democratic society" adding "I am happy the United States is with us at this time."

Kuchma said 1996 should mark a turning point in Ukraine's life and thanked the United States for its support for Ukrainian reforms.

More importantly, he said, understanding has been reached that compensation must be paid to Ukraine for short range nuclear weapons transferred to Russia. Kuchma said the United States would do its best to put the decision firmly in place.

On his own attitude to the CIS, the Ukrainian leader said he saw it as a consultative body rather than an association of states.

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For his part, Clinton spoke of America's resolve to back Ukrainian independence and sovereignty at this hard time. He also spoke of his admiration over the hard steps the Ukrainian government was having to take on the road of reforms.

The problem of Ukraine's energy self-reliance dominated the agenda of Kuchma's talks with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore later in the day. Kuchma proposed that a joint energy commission be set up with himself and Gore in charge.

On Chernobyl, the two men stated the significance of the forthcoming Moscow summit intended to bring a final solution to the Chernobyl issue which Kiev believes to be the question of Ukraine's nuclear safety rather than a purely energy problem.

The two sides struck a cooperation deal on commercially-run satellite launches.

Speaking afterwards, Kuchma said "this turns Ukraine into a space power."

He extended an invitation to Gore to visit Kiev and possibly Chernobyl in the first half of this year and take part in functions timed to coincide with ten years since the world's biggest nuclear power accident.

For his part, Gore reaffirmed that the United States and other G- 7 nations as well as international financial agencies were ready to provide additional funds on new projects aimed at an integrated solution to the Chernobyl problem.

Ukraine's National Security Council Secretary Vladimir Gorbulin accompanying the president during his U.S. tour said the space deal provides for a number of international projects including one called Sea Start. It involves America's Boeing, Norway's Kvernaer, Russia's Energy, and Ukraine's Yuzhnoye companies. But the secretary gave no details.

Gorbulin said the planned launch of a second Ukrainian satellite, Sich-2, was under question because of the substantial funds demanded by the Russian Military Space Forces. He doubts it will be launched in the near term because of this year's spending cuts on the country's space program. (Sich-2 is scheduled to be launched from Russian's Plesetsk Cosmodrome in 1997 — IF).

Kuchma also met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. defense chief William Perry.

Christopher is reported to have backed Kuchma's proposal to his American partners to hold a conference in Kiev this spring to discuss how to widen the U.S. aid program.

Kuchma also spoke of the need for Ukrainian involvement in postwar reconstruction in former Yugoslavia because of suffering more than others from economic sanctions against Belgrade.

European security and Kiev's relations with Russia and the European Union were also discussed. Christopher is said to have backed the idea of Kiev's rapid involvement in European structures and called for wider Ukraine-NATO cooperation outside the framework of the Partnership [for Peace] program.

Speaking afterwards, Kuchma said U.S. officials had reaffirmed the policy aimed at providing economic and political support for Ukraine and its independence "regardless of the outcome of Russian elections."

The implementation of the three-nation deal (United States, Ukraine and Russia) of two years ago on nuclear disarmament of Ukraine was high on the agenda of Kuchma's talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. The Ukrainian leader had drawn attention to the need for honoring the terms of the agreement by all signatories saying Russia must supply nuclear fuel for Ukrainian nuclear power plants in return for the withdrawal of nuclear warheads to Russia.

The two sides were satisfied with the pace of nuclear disarmament which is going on as scheduled.

Perry said the United States was hoping that Ukraine would become a denuclearized state later this summer and that he was planning to visit Kiev to mark the event.

He also announced Washington's plans to extend a $200 million aid to Kiev as part of the Nunn-Lugar plan after Ukraine's denuclearization. Perry said this would not be related to nuclear disarmament.

Ukraine: Kuchma Calls For Reshaping of Collective Defense Concepts

LD2202224896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, Feb 22 (INTERFAX-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has urged the world community "to change fundamental approaches to the tasks and functioning of military-political organizations," namely to reshape the concept of collective defense into a collective security concept. He spoke in Washington Wednesday [21 February] after being awarded the Freedom prize by the Freedom House organization.

"Then the possible NATO enlargement would assume a different quality and remove a whole set of problems related to the form of participation in the construction of

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a new security architecture by such countries as Ukraine that have proclaimed a neutral status," the president said.

Kuchma said the new European security architecture should be based on existing international structures such as the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], the EU, NATO and the Council of Europe.

The president thinks the organization and strengthening of government as an important political institution remains topical for Ukraine.

"Political and ideological antagonism in the country could be overcome completely after the adoption of a new constitution. Only then the possible domination of one political force, one branch of power over others will be removed," Kuchma said.

Ukraine: Kuchma Team 'Satisfied' With Outcome of U.S. Trip

WS2302093296 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0302 GMT 23 Feb 96

[By Yaroslav Bihun, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Feb. 22. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and members of his high-level delegation today concluded an intensive three-day schedule of talks here with President Bill Clinton and other high officials satisfied with what was accomplished.

In addition to official meetings, Kuchma was feted by the human rights organization Freedom House with its Freedom Award for 1996.

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told journalists on the final day of the visit that the Ukrainian officials were satisfied with the outcome of the visit and with the "unchanging policy of support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country, expressed during talks with U.S. President Clinton."

He said the success was in large measure due to the preparations undertaken in Washington last week by a delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Roman Shpek, which allowed Kuchma and his ministers to discuss concrete issues with officials of the U.S. government and those of the international financial institutions.

The only agreement signed during the visit deals with the launching of U.S. commercial satellites with Ukrainian rockets. But there were, as Udovenko pointed out, other specific programs discussed, dealing with U.S. cooperation in the restructuring of Ukraine's industries, especially in the energy sector.

In addition to establishing and nurturing future programs, the visit had two other goals, he said: to continue the ever-improving bilateral contacts at the highest levels and to counter what he termed anti-Ukrainian propaganda or disinformation, especially concerning progress in Kuchma's economic and democratic reforms.

He said this disinformation has resulted in the holding back of credits by international financial institutions, admitting, however that Ukraine's Parliament was partly to blame for its delay in passing the 1996 budget.

International Monetary Fund Director Michel Camdessus said after his meeting with Kuchma that the IMF will decide whether to grant the next tranche of credit — some $900 million — only after the budget is passed.

Udovenko stressed that "there was nothing anti-Russian" during Kuchma's talks in Washington.

The question of Ukraine's relations with Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States came up Thursday, during the banquet at which Kuchma was presented with the Freedom Award.

In introducing the honoree, Zbigniew Brzezinski noted that an independent and democratic Ukraine was, in a way, a guarantor of a democratic Russia, because only a non-imperial Russia can be democratic, and without Ukraine it cannot claim to be an empire.

Kuchma, in his remarks, discounted accusations from some quarters that Ukraine is the only CIS country working against economic integration. He said "there is no greater supporter of mutually beneficial, even-handed economic integration than Ukraine," but it feels that its future lies in economic integration with Europe.

Ukraine's economic crisis affects the stability not only of Ukraine, but that of Europe as well. "That is why we are doing everything we can to succeed with our program of radical economic reforms," Kuchma said.

Kuchma also called for a change in the approach to the roles of political-military structures in Europe, away from the concept of "collective defense" and toward a concept of "collective security," which would include economic security. This, he said, would eliminate the problems for participation in such European groupings of neutral countries such as Ukraine.

Ukraine: Kuchma Urges More Investment by U.S. Businessmen

WS2302094996 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0302 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Feb. 22. President Leonid Kuchma, on the last of his three days in the

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United States, pitched top American businessmen for increased investment in Ukraine's economy.

Using a meeting he had with top American CEOs at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to drum up support for his attempt to rebuild the Ukrainian economy, Kuchma received positive reinforcement when he was told by agency President Ruth Harkin that an OPIC-backed fund will soon invest up to $50 million in a range of consumer services companies in Ukraine.

"Today there is no better country in the world to invest in than Ukraine," Kuchma said following the closed-door meeting. "Maybe the United States is not much worse."

He said the priority areas for Ukraine include the energy sector, which is in need of investment to fund technical re-equipment. The country has huge deposits of oil and gas, he added, but needs help to extract it.

"We have received investments in the hundreds of millions, but we would like to have billions," said the Ukrainian president.

"American investment increased last year and it will be even better this year," he predicted.

Ukraine: Article on Drug Planes in Colombia Result of 'Rivalry'

LD2202140996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, February 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The publication of an article by the U.S.-based newspaper Los Angeles Times about the alleged sale and lease to Colombian drug dealers of Ukrainian military-transport planes An-32 is the result of the toughening of rivalry between aircraft building companies for markets, specialists from the Kiev aircraft building plant (AviANT), who preferred to remain anomymous, told Tass today. In their opinion, the article in The Los Angeles Times was written to order with the aim to discredit the An-32 planes, which are more economical and less expensive, than U.S. planes of the same class.

The specialists told Tass that Ukraine had not sold planes to Colombia, but Ukrainian pilots are working there under contract. They operate six military-transport An-32 planes on leasing terms. The specialists refuted the newspaper's information about another six planes, prepared at the AviANT plant to be sold to Colombia. According to them, talks about it are being held, and nothing but talks. They specified that since 1979 the plant had sold to Peru 15 An-26 planes and the same number of An-32 planes.

According to the AviANT specialists, it is not the first time a report appeared in the press about the transportation of narcotic- containing raw materials by Ukrainian planes on the order of the Latin American mafia. Ukrainian inspection officers went to Peru and Colombia to check the reports, but no evidence to substantiate them was found. The contracts, signed by the pilots, say that it is forbidden to Ukrainian crews to transport armaments, narcotics and similar cargoes. The Ukrainian Air Transport Department, which is in charge of the leasing of Ukrainian planes, is very particular about the observance of those rules.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry described the report, published by The Los Angeles Times, as a political action, timed to coincide with a visit of the Ukrainian president to the United States. The ministry is trying to find out whose order it was, wishing to understand the objective behind it, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheyev told Tass.

The AviANT plant does engage in trade and economic activities, but only with legitimate firms. The Ukrainian side is not responsible, however, for what those firms do with the planes specifically, to whom they sold or leased them, Serheyev stressed.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who is staying in Washington, also refuted press reports about the sale and lease of Ukrainian military-transport An-32 planes to Colombian drug dealers. "Our planes are not involved in such things," he told journalists. According to Kuchma, those planes belonged to a company and not to the state, and for this reason the Ukrainian side does not feel guilty about all those developments.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Parliament Defeats Attempt To Join CIS Body

WS2302130096 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0302 GMT 23 Feb 96

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb. 21 — Parliament defeated an attempt to have Ukraine joining to Commonwealth of Independent States Parliamentary Assembly on Wednesday.

At the morning parliamentary session Rukh, Reforms and Statehood parliamentary factions refused to register, protesting against inclusion of the on the agenda [sentence as received].

But the situation changed when Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz proposed to deputies afternoon not register officially at the session, but express their

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position on whether Ukraine should become a full CIS Parliamentary Assembly member, an associate member or not join at all.

Deputies also failed to get necessary votes to approve the proposal on associated membership in the assembly until new constitution is approved.

The proposal for full membership initiated by Deputy Parliament Speaker Oleh Diomin, Communist Yevhen Marmazov and Interregional Deputy Group member Yuriy Boldyriyev received 191 votes, the highest of the three options, but still short of the mark needed for approval.

Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, who participated in the Wednesday session, declined to give the government's opinion on the issue, saying "it is exclusively Parliament's problem."

Ukraine: Mass Media Accused of 'Exacerbating' Crimean Situation

AU2202160596 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Who Gains From This?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 February, Dmytro Stepanyuk, permanent Ukrainian presidential representative in the Crimean Autonomous Republic, issued an appeal to representatives of the mass media and to all Crimean residents. The appeal reads, in particular, as follows: "Some of the Crimean mass media have lately been disseminating materials that exacerbate the socioeconomic and political situation on the peninsula. At the same time, materials on measures that the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council are taking for extricating the country from the difficult economic situation are totally ignored...."

It is underscored that this applies to such papers as KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA, MESHCHANSKAYA GAZETA, KOMMUNIST KRYMA, KRYMSKOYE VREMYA, SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA, VECHERNIY SEVASTOPOL, papers of the Black Sea Fleet FLAG RODINY and a number of other publications, and also to individual programs of the Crimen Television.

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Belarus

Belarus: 'Explosive Device' Interrupts Lukashenka Meeting

LD2202185396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1827 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 22 Feb — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had to interrupt his meeting with residents of the town of Novopolotsk. This was a request from his security guards who were warned that an explosive device had been planted in the hall. The meeting was taking place in the House of Culture of the Naftan production amalgamation.

Everyone was immediately evacuated from the hall. The president's security guards have not released any information so far concerning the explosive device.

Belarus: Official Says Parliament Has Right To Impeach President

WS2302103496 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0812 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The whole morning plenary sitting of February 22 was devoted to the consideration of the Constitutional Court's Message to the Supreme Soviet and the President On the Observance of Constitutional Law in the Republic of Belarus in 1995. Making a report at the sitting Constitutional Court Chairman Valeryy Tsikhinya said that the observance of Constitutional law last year should be qualified as unsatisfactory. [passage omitted]

Asked by an MP about the mechanism of impeachment against the President, Mr Tsikhinya pointed out that guided by the Constitutional Court's judgments the Supreme Soviet has the right to initiate a collection of signatures for this impeachment, the more so, as the executive power keeps on disregarding the Court's judgments.

Belarus: MP Warns of 'Premature Talk' About Impeaching President

WS2302105496 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0812 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presenting on February 22 the draft parliamentary resolution on the Constitutional Court's Message On the Observance of Constitutional Law in the Republic of Belarus in 1995 MP Viktar Hanchar cautioned his colleagues against "premature talks about impeachment against the President." "We should not swallow the bait put by the executive power, otherwise the present parliament may have the situation of April 12 1995, when members of the Belarusian Popular Front opposition were evicted from the Supreme Soviet's conference hail by force," Mr Hanchar said. "You know well what Ahalets (the Belarusian minister of the interior) can do without feeling pangs of conscience."

Belarus: Syanko Says Yeltsin, Lukashenka To Focus on Economic Issues

LD2202210296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Feb 22 (Interfax-West) — Belarus will cooperate with the president which will be elected by the people of the Russian Federation, Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko told a press conference in Minsk Thursday.

However, "Minsk is unlikely to anyhow influence the presidential race in Russia," Syanko said.

Speaking on the Belarusian president's future visit to Moscow, Syanko said its main goal was to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries.

The summit will discuss the reconciliation of mutual debts "exceeding $1 billion," Syanko said.

"The resolution of this issue will require political will from both leaders," he said, hoping they would show such a will during the visit.

Lukashenka's two-day visit will involve talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Syanko said.

Lukashenka will also meet with Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev, State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

In addition, Lukashenka is expected to make a speech at the State University of Moscow.

Upon the end of his Moscow program, Lukashenka will visit the Tyumen region to meet with regional leaders and the local Belarusian community.

Moldova

Moldova: Dniester Hampering Russian Military Withdrawal

AU2202170796 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Feb 96

["Political Commentary: 'Dniester Factor Influences Russian Military Equipment Withdrawal'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 20/02/1996 (BASA-press) — Divergences have again emerged between Moldova and Russia in the area of military relations.

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The withdrawal of the military engineering equipment which earlier belonged to the military subunits stationed in the region has been halted. The parties blame each other for the suspension of the withdrawal.

In late December 1995, Chisinau and Moscow military officials agreed upon the withdrawal of 20 trains of military equipment within six months.

After the pullout of two trains in January 1996, Moldovan military officials ordered the suspension of the military equipment shipment to Russia. The Moldovan Defence Ministry justified its decision by the fact that it cannot take over its share of equipment. Under earlier signed agreements, both Moldova and Dniester were to receive a share of Russian military equipment.

Chisinau demanded that its share of equipment be transported to the Dniester's right bank by the Russian troops.

Valeriy Yevnevich, Russian troops commander, rejected this demand saying at a recent press conference in Tiraspol that "this is the problem of the beneficiary." Thus Yevnevich blamed Moldovan officials for foiling the Russian military equipment withdrawal. In his turn, General Ion Nani, vice defence minister, and Nicolae Turtureanu, head of the Military Policy Division at the Defence Ministry, stated that Moldova will not allow the withdrawal "unless Russian military officials work out a mechanism to hand over Moldova's share of equipment."

The Moldovan Defence Ministry officials implied that this mechanism was not fixed in any document, but this procedure is Russia's obligation. Although Moldovan military officials have not formulated the reasons for their decision clearly, they are obvious. Tiraspol however displayed its firm position that Dniester authorities would not allow the transfer of Russian military equipment to Chisinau, even if this is auxiliary military equipment. Besides, many Dniester socio-political formations announced intention to block the shipment of the equipment to Moldova.

Under these circumstances, there are no doubts that Chisinau will run a high risk of confronting Tiraspol authorities and implicitly Dniester army if it attempts to take over the equipment. Supposedly, the Russian troops command is aware of the risks of getting in a conflict with Tiraspol, if it attempts to ship the equipment to the right bank of the Dniester.

Bearing in mind that Dniester paramilitary forces had taken weapons from the 14th Army in 1992, it is possible that Dniester authorities or socio-political formations will oppose, even violently, the withdrawal of the equipment.

Such a development of events is acceptable for neither Moldova nor Russia. However, the withdrawal stoppage entails considerable expenses on Russia. Under these circumstances, it is absolutely logical that Russia be tempted to speed up the conflict solution. For Chisinau this is a problem of principle without imperatives involved; on the other hand this means financial losses for Russia. The situation however is worsened, as some sources reported, by the fact that during the meeting of a special governmental commission with General Yevnevich, no agreement was reached.

Moldova: Colonel Bergman Says 14th Army Selling Arms to Chechnya

AU2202184096 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, 21 Feb [INFOTAG] — The Tiraspol military court, based at the Dniester-deployed Russian Army contingent, is considering a claim filed by Colonel Mikhail Bergman, former Tiraspol Military commandant, against General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russian Defence Minister.

Bergman is protesting against the minister's order by which the Colonel was dismissed from his post. The order was brought to Bergman's knowledge on last October 20, and he was then offered another post in Russia.

Bergman has regarded the order as ungrounded and illicit, remained in Tiraspol, and applied to the military court. "During 20 years of irreproachable military service, I heard no reprimands from my bosses, and there are no grounds to remove me from my post," he stated, and has qualified Grachev's order as "persecution for political convictions." Bergman himself and many observers in Tiraspol are saying his removal is directly related with his friendship with the former commander of the Russian 14th Army, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, who is a State Duma deputy now, a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, and has been nominated as a presidential candidate.

The trial began on Monday with an attempt to put it off undertaken by Colonel Nikolay Angelov, Grachev's representative, who is senior legal consultant in the Russian Army contingent in Dniester. He stood up with a statement challenging the jury, and accused its chairman, Colonel Nikolay Tumanov, of preconceived attitude to trial participants. Angelov has stated, the jury chairman had allowed for a verbal disrespect of Lieutenant General Valeriy Yevnevich, contingent

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commander. However, Angelov's protest was declined, and the trial was resumed today, with Yevnevich summoned as a witness.

Today the ministerial representative attempted to put off the hearings again, but Bergman stated inadmissibility of such a postponement. He said to journalists, by behaving that way the defendants are taking their time in order to hide facts of plundering weapons from the 59th infantry division of the former 14th Army. Bergman said he has documentary proofs that about 40 percent of officers in the contingent are involved in weaponry plundering, including through selling it to Chechnya. He says he was aware of such criminal practice even when he was in office, but lacked documented evidences to state it openly.

Moldova: Ministry Denies Chechen Links to Terror, Crime Scene

AU2102213996 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 20/02/1996 [BASA-prses] — No offences committed by Chechens have been reported as yet; nor is there information that Chechens are organized in criminal groups, BASA-press learned from Tudor Sabii, head of the judiciary police division of the Interior Ministry.

Earlier, on February 6, during the Interior Ministry College attended by President Mircea Snegur, Sabii expressed concern that the big inflow of Chechens to Moldova might lead to terrorist acts. Other Interior Ministry sources told BASA-press that the Russian Interior Ministry warned CIS states of increased flow of Chechen emigrants and the danger of terrorist acts.

Sabii confirmed that the Moldovan Interior Ministry received a message from the Russian Interior Ministry which inquires about the inflow of Chechen emigrants.

Sabii said the Moldovan police rigorously checks all foreign citizens and the purpose of their visit.

Asked by BASA-press to comment the warnings of possible terrorist acts committed by Chechens, Valeriu Daraban, head of the Moldovan Security Ministry, said the number of Chechen emigrants has increased, but there is no information on the offences committed by them or existence of Chechen terrorist organi zations.

"The people from Chechnya, no matter what nationality, are checked up while entering Moldova and, if they do not have relatives or a well-determined purpose for their visit, they are not allowed to enter Moldova," specified Daraban.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: OSCE Council Views Tajik Crisis, Talks

LD2302103596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0858 GMT 23 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna, 23 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — An array of political issues on a way out of the crisis in Tajikistan and the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] in solving the problem in the region was discussed at a sitting of the permanent council of the OSCE in the evening of 22 February.

Representatives from a Tajik delegation informed the sitting of the progress of the inter-Tajik talks. They pointed out that the government recently proposed that a forum of people from Tajikistan be set up, which should help significantly in the search to find peace, stability, and public reconciliation.

Representatives from OSCE states noted the growing significance of the organization's mission in forging dialogue between the different authorities, as the OSCE continues to play its role as a controlling, consolidating factor in the region and is prepared to step up its work with the aim of bringing peace to Tajikistan as quickly as possible.

Tajikistan: OSCE Official Comments on Peace Settlement, Seminar

LD2202163096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — Peace settlement of the Inter-Tajik conflict is the major condition of security in Central Asia, head of the OSCE bureau on relations with Central Asia Aloiz Reznik, on a two-day visit in Tajikistan, told a press conference in Dushanbe Thursday.

"The government and the opposition must continue negotiations and find compromises" in order to settle the situation in the republic, he said.

"Though the Ashgabat round of Inter-Tajik negotiations was fruitless, I am convinced that Tajikistan's government intends to continue the dialogue in a constructive mood and to search for a peaceful way of settlement," he said.

The situation in Tajikistan and plans for its settlement will be discussed "in all aspects" at the OSCE seminar scheduled for April 24-26 in Dushanbe along with other issues, Reznik said in answer to Interfax. The agreement on this seminar "has been practically reached with the republic's leadership."

Special envoy of the U.N. secretary General Ramiro Piriz Ballon is expected to address the seminar. Leaders of all Central Asian countries and OSCE member-countries are supposed to attend the seminar as well.

Reznik assumed that the seminar will help to improve cooperation between the OSCE member-countries, as well as in the sphere of efficient consultative aid to Tajikistan to settle the Inter-Tajik problem.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Foreign Minister Explains Wary Attitude Toward CIS

MM2202144196 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Musiyenko: "Fearing Even a Hint About USSR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We need the CIS, there is no alternative to it," Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov admitted at a Tashkent press conference. But he immediately stated that "we oppose the gradual transformation of the CIS into some kind of independent interregional organization and a subject of international law, and we oppose the creation of supranational organs of state power."

This trend is clearly evident, the head of Uzbekistan's foreign policy department noted. For instance, the question of making Interparliamentary Assembly decisions binding on all the newly independent member states is being increasingly actively "pushed" at CIS Interparliamentary Assembly sessions. In that event, the assembly, in A. Komilov's opinion, will be strongly reminiscent of the USSR Supreme Soviet. That is why Uzbekistan refused to take part in the Interparliamentary Assembly even as an observer.

Listing the agreements and treaties within the CIS which Uzbekistan has not signed, the minister mentioned in particular the treaty on the joint protection of the Commonwealth's external borders. "We are able to reliably monitor the 156-km border with Afghanistan with our own forces without involving foreign troops from other countries, primarily Russia," he said. The minister gave the following explanation for the refusal to sign the treaty between the CIS and UNESCO: "Do we really have to ask Mr. Korotchenya for permission to properly celebrate the anniversary of Emir Timur or Ulugbek?"

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Uzbekistan: Primakov Holds Consultations With Karimov

LD2202210196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1639 GMT 22 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent, 22 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Uzbekistan occupies an important place in Russia's foreign policy, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, who is on an official visit here, said in Tashkent today. This is his second visit to the republic since he became Russian foreign minster. The present visit of the head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is connected with establishing bilateral strategic actions linking the two countries in the sphere of foreign affairs and examining the problems of regional security, the recent events in Tajikistan, and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. In the course of his official talks with Abdulaziz Kamilov, his Uzbek colleague, Yevgeniy Primakov found understanding and solidarity on all these issues.

The Russian foreign affairs minister had consultations with President Islam Karimov. The leader of the Uzbek state spoke positively about Russia's foreign policy and said that the Uzbek side is willing to cooperate actively in all spheres of bilateral and mutually beneficial relations. Islam Karimov stressed that interaction between Uzbekistan and Russia has a priority place in the spheres of foreign policy, economy, and humanitarian issues and that the people of Uzbekistan consider Russia their good and reliable neighbor and friend.

As a result of the talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Uzbekistan a document was adopted and signed by them. In particular, it lays out the procedure of interaction between the two foreign affairs ministers. Questions of cooperation between journalists of the two countries were also examined and discussed.

Primakov's official visit to Uzbekistan continues. However, it is expected to finish late tonight, after which the Russian delegation will depart for Moscow.

Uzbekistan: Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Ends Visit

LD2302115796 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Feb 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The official visit to Uzbekistan by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov ended late yesterday evening. The details are in our correspondent's report:

[Correspondent S. Ganiyeva] Following talks at the Uzbek foreign ministry and the signing of a program of cooperation between the two countries' foreign political departments, Yevgeniy Primakov met with President Islam Karimov. A strictly confidential talk went on for more than two and one-half hours. Apart from a whole range of questions of bilateral and mutual interest, Yevgeniy Primakov and Islam Karimov had a detailed discussion on the state of affairs in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan order where the opposition even today has been stepping up its activities considerably. The interests of Russia and Uzbekistan in settling acute conflicts and stabilizing the situation coincide.

[Begin Primakov recording] Uzbek has a greater interest than most Central Asian states in ensuring that the situation in Tajikistan is a normal one. [end recording]

Uzbekistan: Primakov Visit 'Cannot Be Regarded as Failure'

MK2302123796 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Irina Gribova: "Yevgeniy Primakov Returns to Moscow With Unsigned Documents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov yesterday received Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, who arrived in Tashkent on an official visit. The audience took place behind closed doors. The president's press service reported that the interlocutors discussed questions "of elaborating joint efforts to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan and Tajikistan." Later in the day, Mr. Primakov held talks with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov. However, the sides signed only one of the package of documents that were up for signature — a program on cooperation between the two foreign ministries in 1996. Among those remaining unsigned are an agreement on the status of Russian Federation citizens living in Uzbekistan and Uzbek citizens living in Russia; an agreement on regulation of migration processes; an agreement on legal aid in criminal and civil proceedings; an agreement on opening cultural and information centers; and an agreement on the status of correspondents.

According to a staffer of the local Foreign Ministry press service, the listed documents will hardly be signed soon owing to the Russian side's unpreparedness. At the same time, a source in the republic's government stated, "Primakov's mission cannot be regarded as a failure, if only because he confirmed Russia's unwillingness to waive the interests of its compatriots."

Journalists noted the differences that surfaced in trying to determine the status of correspondents. The Uzbek

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side insisted that the agreement should include a point obligating the sides "to prevent, via authorized organs, the appearance in the press of materials from unaccredited journalists."

Uzbekistan: Ethnic Russians Take Russian Citizenship, Leave Uzbekistan

MM2202145596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Feb 96 p 7

[Report by Vladimir Berezovskiy: "Tashkent — City of Plenty. But Not for Everyone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent — Every day 130-150 people receive Russian citizenship from the Russian Embassy in Tashkent. According to Consul Aleksey Ivanov, in the last few years over 170,000 inhabitants of Uzbekistan have become Russian Federation citizens. The overwhelming majority of them have already moved to their historical homeland. However, many of them leave on their own, bypassing official channels. With them the number of people who have emigrated to Russia has topped 0.5 million people.

Tatars, Koreans, Germans, Jews, and Bashkirs are also leaving.

Uzbeks are also going to Russia. Generally, to be with relatives. They take citizenship for the sake of the wages, often in Siberia, at oil and gas fields.

At the same time Russians are also coming back to Uzbekistan, abandoning Russian citizenship. There are 20 such cases per month. Each for very different reasons. Namely, problems with housing, work, the unusual climate, family circumstances.

Consular officials often encounter tricksters who take advantage of the situation to acquire several different states' passports each or try to adopt citizenship when under investigation in order to enlist the Russian Embassy in their defense. Drugs traffickers arrested onboard trains and aircraft cause particular hassle.

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Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Interview on Abkhazia Peacekeeping Previewed

MK2302130096 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Feb 96 p 9

[Report by Leonid Velekhov: "Eduard Shevardnadze: Peacekeepers in Abkhazia in Their Present Form Make No Sense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a 90-minute interview with your SEGODNYA observer in Tbilisi on Tuesday [20 February], Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze characterized as "vital" Russia's interest in a settlement of the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict, attributing to it the origin of the Russian-Chechen standoff. Eduard Shevardnadze thinks the creation of a confederate state (something insisted upon by Abkhaz leaders) on the border with Russia is extremely dangerous for the latter given its present situation. He agrees with the initiative of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who stated the other day his intention to present the Russian Federation president with a proposal to withdraw Russian peacekeepers from the conflict zone owing to the less than effective results of the negotiating process and the unwillingness of Abkhaz leaders to compromise. The Georgian president added that in a situation where the Abkhaz regime is derailing talks and stalling for time, the peacekeeping forces, at least in their present form, make no sense. As a matter of fact, they guard the artificially created border on the Inguri River, barring from the territory of Abkhazia inhabitants who fled the 1992 ethnic cleansing there, whereas the territory behind the peacekeepers' backs is controlled without hindrance by Abkhaz separatists.

Thus, the present role of the peacekeepers only legitimizes the results of ethnic cleansing. The extension of the Russian peacekeeping forces' mandate makes sense provided it is changed so that the peacekeepers are made responsible for seeing to it that the refugees return to their homes in Abkhazia. How this will be arranged — by bringing in police headquarters or in some other manner — is yet to be decided. Eduard Shevardnadze is confident that the people will find a common language once back on their native soil.

Eduard Shevardnadze regards as bluffing all talk by Abkhaz leaders to the effect that they are in a position to make war and uphold their independence by force of arms, because today there cannot be a repetition of the situation that prevailed in the early stage of the conflict. We want no military solution, but then 300,000 refugees cannot wait interminably. [This is how] the Georgian president summed up the "Abkhaz topic" in his conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent.

Read Eduard Shevardnadze's interview in our newspaper next week.

Georgia: Defense Minister on Mandate for Abkhaz Peacekeeping Forces

LD2202160596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — Georgia's Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze believes that, if a political decision concerning Abkhazia is made, the issue of a new mandate for the CIS peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict will be resolved promptly.

In the meantime, experts have failed to reach a consensus at their consultations on determining a new mandate for the peacekeeping forces held in the Russian capital, he told a news conference Thursday in Tbilisi on the results of his trip to Moscow.

According to Nadibaidze, he met with Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba in the office of Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. At that meeting, Grachev said that Russian peacekeepers will be withdrawn from the conflict zone, unless the conflicting sides come to terms.

Grachev was quite explicit, Nadibaidze said. "He demanded that the Abkhaz leader take a constructive stand based on the assumption that Georgia is an indivisible state," Nadibaidze said.

When asked by Interfax's correspondent what will happen if the peacekeeping forces are withdrawn from the conflict zone, Nadibaidze said that the consequences of such a withdrawal are under consideration. Today the Georgian army is not what it was even one or two years ago; its fighting capacity is good, and it is capable of accomplishing any task set by the president, he said. "I wish the Abkhaz leaders would think about this in earnest," he said.

Nevertheless Nadibaidze noted that Georgia is against resolving the Abkhaz problem by military means.

With reference to Georgia's claims to its share of the Black Sea Fleet he said: it is very costly to maintain a navy, and Georgia cannot afford it at the moment. However, Nadibaidze pointed out, there are calls for establishing a joint system of the Black Sea Fleet, similar to the air defense system established in the framework of the CIS.

It has been decided to set up a joint Georgian-Russian frontier post, which will begin to function in the near future on Russia's border with Abkhazia on the River Psou, Nadibaidze told journalists.

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Georgia: Abkhaz President Offers To Talk With Shevardnadze

LD2202135696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abkhazia leader Vladislav Ardzinba is willing to meet Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss resolving the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. He also said the meeting could take place in Russia if that country's leadership agrees.

Abkhazia is in no hurry to unite with Georgia on any terms. It will only agree to a fundamentally new relationship, republican president Ardzinba said following his return from a lengthy trip to Moscow. Outlining the results of his official visit to Russia, which concerned a settlement to the Georgia-Abkhazia confrontation, the Abkhazia leader made no secret of his satisfaction at the meetings he held with top leaders of the mediating country on how to settle the conflict. Ardzinba praised the mediation role played by new Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and was sharply critical of the Georgian position, which is seen as intransigent and short-sighted.

[Begin Ardzinba recording] The Georgians usually come up with ideas to only suit themselves. It is impossible to achieve an agreement along those lines. I personally think they should take a very moderate approach to our proposals, because their understanding of a federal state is not something that we, of course, will sign up for. [end recording]

The Abkhaz president also said he was willing to meet Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on neutral ground so as to achieve quicker a comprehensive solution to the conflict. He stressed that the draft political status put forward this time by Abkhazia — unity with Georgia as part of a federal union — is the bare minimum which the republic can accept.

Georgia: Peacekeepers Not To Remain in Abkhazia Indefinitely

LD2202205896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 22 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — Russia will not be able to keep its peacekeepers in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict indefinitely if Tbilisi and Sukhumi do not promote political settlement, a top-ranking official from Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

At the same time, the positions of Russia's Foreign and Defense Ministries coincide, he said.

The mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPF) staying in Abkhazia, made up largely of Russian servicemen now, expires on April 19, the source said.

"If there are no advances in the settlement process by this date then we must think what to do with the Russian contingent of 'blue helmets' stationed in Abkhazia. How long can we keep them there?" the diplomat said.

Experts from CIS countries failed to prepare a draft of a new mandate for the peacekeepers by February 19, the date established by the January summit of the Commonwealth, he said.

"The work on a new mandate for the peacekeeping forces is being continued, not at the common table but in another form," the source said, not disclosing in what form properly.

Georgia: Giorgadze—Georgians To Blame for Ossetian, Abkhaz Conflict

LD2202220596 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] BGI correspondent Viktoria Kavzharadze has interviewed Panteleimon Giorgadze, leader of the United Georgian Communist Party,

[Kavzharadze] You often say that the press slanders you. How does it show?

[Giorgadze] Some 95 percent of my statements, utterances, or words are distorted. This has become a rule. Very often something that I have not said is attributed to me. All this is very simple: many of the heads of the mass media serve the authorities, are engaged by the authorities, and, naturally, try their best to please their bosses. Hence, the slander.

[Kavzharadze] Were you exasperated by the fact that you were not permitted to enter the conference hall of the Samshoblo publishing house where your news conference was supposed to be held?

[Giorgadze] Well, not exactly exasperated. It was sad and funny. I, a Georgian citizen and the leader of a serious party was not permitted to enter the place where Germans, Turks, Americans, and whoever you want can enter freely. The authorities are simply scared of the truth, which I am not afraid to tell and which makes them tremble. This fear made Vakhtang Abashidze, the head of president's press service, look ludicrous.

[Kavzharadze] What seemed ludicrous to you?

[Giorgadze] Everything. He slammed the door like a naughty boy and ran away. Funny and shameful. He is

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not a boy. He is the head of the president's press service. I feel ashamed for him.

[Kavzharadze] Let us move from these curious incidents to more serious issues. Why do you think a blockade of Abkhazia is impossible?

[Giorgadze] Oh no, it is possible, but it is not needed. It is not needed because the ordinary people will suffer first of all. And they are our compatriots — citizens of Georgia. They say that all the aid to Abkhazia should go via Georgia. The Georgian authorities are unable to pass humanitarian aid to ethnic Georgians. So, how will it reach ethnic Abkhaz? It will be stolen and pilfered by our corrupt politicians. This was the case in Ossetia.

[Kavzharadze] How did it end?

[Giorgadze] The civilian population suffered. Nowadays, there is much talk that it was only ethnic Georgians who were killed in Ossetia. This is a filthy lie. I was in command of peacekeeping forces in Ossetia at that time and witnessed all that was happening there.

[Kavzharadze] And what did you see?

[Giorgadze] I saw how Ossetians as well as Georgians were killed. I saw women and children with lacerations on their backs. They were Ossetian and Georgian women and children. I saw brutality, cruelty, and blood on both sides and one cannot keep silent about this. The two sides were worth each other.

[Kavzharadze] But this was after they had become embittered. Who was the first to start?

[Giorgadze] It was the Georgian extremists who started war in Ossetia and in Abkhazia. I still cannot perceive why Tskhinvali was surrounded with cannons and shelled. We, too, did not want to be within the USSR, but no one except us shelled Tbilisi.

[Kavzharadze] What can be done now? Many say that what has been lost by war should be regained by war. What do you think?

[Giorgadze] I oppose this formula categorically. We have to go to Abkhazia and Ossetia with peace. War will give us nothing except fresh blood and fresh disgrace. And we will not be able to fight. Speaking seriously, we did not fight in Abkhazia.

[Kavzharadze] What was that then?

[Giorgadze] To my mind, that was a guerrilla assault and those who did it are in prison now. Nothing like that can be done today. And soldiers will not go there to fight. A soldier who is not convinced of the righteousness of his deed is not able to fight. We should go there with peace, good words, and accord. The integrity of the Georgian family should by all means be preserved. And the Abkhaz and the Ossetians are members of our family. Why do we forget it? As for extremists, there is an effective measure against them — they must be arrested and punished.

[Kavzharadze][Who do you regard as extremists?

[Giorgadze] They are on both sides — Georgian as well as Abkhazian. Separatism first appeared here and only later did it reach Abkhazia. We shall not forget this. It is said now that Abkhazia strove to quit Georgia. It was not Abkhazia. It was representatives of individual political groups in Abkhazia who did. But such groups have always existed in Georgia.

[Kavzharadze] And do you still believe that Georgia can be united?

[Giorgadze] Indeed, it can. However, the capitalist system is not able to do this. We communists have a clear program on the issue. It is like this — we Georgians have to admit our mistakes and apologize to the Ossetian and Abkhaz peoples. The leaders of Ossetia and Abkhazia have to admit their mistakes and apologize to the Georgian people. As the mutual repentance takes place, the process will develop. But now, alas, our leaders are trying to force each other to their knees. And this is happening while the people is perishing. This is horrible.

Georgia: South Ossetia Adopts Statement on Republic Status

LD2202133196 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1115 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tskhinvali, 22 Feb — An agency correspondent has been told at the Shida Kartli regional administration that the parliament of the so-called South Ossetian republic — People's Nikhas — on 20 February adopted a statement saying that South Ossetia would stay within Georgia provided the latter acknowledged that South Ossetia is a republic, with which Georgia would sign a special agreement.

Georgia: Naval Commander Comments on Black Sea Fleet Problem

LD2202160796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Feb 22 (INTERFAX) — The issue of Georgia's claims for a share of the Black Sea Fleet may be resolved only on the political level, believes commander of Georgia's Navy Aleksandr Dzhavakhishvili.

Commanders of Russia's and Ukraine's fleets "are even interested in this because it is financially difficult to

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maintain the fleet on the Black Sea, both for Russia and Ukraine." Georgia, Dzhavakhishvili said, is also unable to maintain its own fleet.

"There is a very simple and efficient way out. It is necessary to gather the commanders of three fleets and to prepare an expert conclusion for politicians," he said. "It is necessary to start redistributing the former Black Sea Fleet," including auxiliary facilities and property," he said.

Moreover, the Georgian party proposed the granting of the military base in Poti (Georgia) to Russia and Ukraine for combat patrolling by their ships. "This would assist in creating a joint system for Russia's, Ukraine's and Georgia's fleets," Dzhavakhishvili said.

Georgia: EU To Double Investment in 'Eurasian Corridor'

AU2202164596 Tbilisi ARGUMENTI in Georgian 13-15 Feb 96 p 2

[BS-Press report: "EU Delegation in Georgia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 February, late in the evening, Eduard Shevardnadze met the members of a delegation from the European Commission headed by Fokion Fotiadis [name as transliterated], head of the Department for Ties With Eastern Europe and CIS Countries attached to the European Commission First General Department. Questions concerning cooperation with the European Commission were discussed at the meeting.

"The treaty on cooperation with the European Commission, taking into account its scale, has great importance not only for Georgia but also for the whole Caucasus," stated Eduard Shevardnadze. The president imparted his views to the guests concerning the creation of a partnership fund and the elaboration of principles of cooperation and pointed out that the position of the sides practically coincided. At the same time, Eduard Shevardnadze reminded the members of the delegation of the country's pressing problems, in particular the problem concerning the import of wheat that, in today's conditions, continues to remain urgent. The Georgian president expressed the hope that cooperation between Georgia and the European Commission would become even more intensive.

At the meeting, the sides discussed questions concerning the development of a transport infrastructure for the Eurasian transport corridor. It was pointed out that the idea of a Eurasian corridor was gradually acquiring a more realistic form, as a result of which many countries had expressed a desire to participate in its realization. "We believe in this project and will view it as a vitally important route," stated Mr. Fotiadis.

The head of the European Commission delegation pointed out that the oil pipeline [from the Caspian Sea], the "Silk Route," and other projects would further reinforce their belief in the reality of the Eurasian corridor. Consequently, the European Commission had decided to double [its share of] the financing of this project.

Mr. Fotiadis promised Eduard Shevardnadze that the European Commission would continue to support both regional and local projects in the future and would actively engage itself in attracting investments from foreign banks to Georgia so that these routes could be realized as quickly as possible. "We, together with the Georgian authorities, will try to devise a strategy for further technical support over the next four years," stated Fokion Fotiadis, while summarizing the results of the visit by the European Commission delegaton to Georgia at a press conference held on 9 February.

Georgia: Moscow Seeks Extradition of Ex-Foreign Minister

AU2202165796 Tbilisi MSGEPSI in Georgian 4-7 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Mikheil Paghava: "Why Are They Arresting Murman Omanidze?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few days ago, the "Audientsia" program broadcast information about the search for Murman Omanidze, former member of the Georgian Parliament, former deputy prime minister and foreign minister [under ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia]. As it turns out, it is not only Georgia but also Russia that is searching for Omanidze. Criminal proceedings have been instigated against Omanidze in Moscow and the request that he be sought and handed over to the Russian law enforcement agencies comes from Moscow. Apparently, Omanidze (according to the Russian Procurator's Office) got up to something illegal in the Russian capital and is now hiding from the law. As regards Georgia, criminal proceedings were instigated against him a long time ago (at any rate, an investigation is under way). However, [Procurator General] Jamlet Babilashvili has not yet issued a warrant for Omanidze's arrest. At one of the sessions of the previous Parliament, Omanidze cursed Babilashvili in fine fashion and called him "incompetent," to which Babilashvili replied that he would soon show him how "incompetent" he was. It seems Omanid is accused of economic machinations [passage omitted].

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Latvia

Latvia: Prime Minister Gives State of the Nation Address

LD2202223696 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On Latvian television today, Prime Minister Andris Skele presented a survey of the situation in the country. When he took up his post, the prime minister promised in his speech on New Year's Eve to inform the population of Latvia about the state of the national economy as he took over the leadership of the country. In future, the prime minister emphasized, he will make such surveys regularly.

[Begin Skele recording] The debts are mounting up, and at the end of the old year, 1995, the total national debt was not quite 380 million lats. This was the basis of this year's debt of 538 million lats. That is more than a fifth of the predicted gross product. That is [word indistinct] billion dollars. The situation in the national economy may be compared with changeable windless weather.

Instability, indefiniteness, disarray, are the realities of the Latvian economy today. The gross domestic product fell last year by 0.35 percent. In 1996 it is predicted to grow by half a percentage point. The average long-term interest rate in 1995 was 27.4 percent. This figure fully characterizes the stagnation that prevails in the Latvian national [words indistinct] to achieve a turning point in the country's economic development. At the end of 1997 we could be thrown back to such a (?situation) that there will be few countries in the world so poor as to be compared with our wretched (?nation). The government's strong determination to bring about a turning point in the country's development requires the making of many unpopular decisions.

The government is striving to bring order to the State Revenue Service and increase its (word indistinct) powers. This also requires the honesty, wisdom, and moral support of the citizens. [end recording]

Andris Skele explained that the complete text of the review of the state of the nation can be found in next week's press.

Latvia: Norwegian Army Chief of Staff Discusses Cooperation

LD2202143796 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sven Sved, chief of staff of the Norwegian army, is continuing his visit to Latvia. Cooperation between the two countries was discussed at a meeting today with Juris Dalbins, commander of the National Armed Forces. It is planned to draft documents for further cooperation in March. After that, the Norwegian defense minister will possibly visit Latvia.

The Norwegian army representative familiarized himself with the situation in the National Armed Forces, the training, and participation in the Partnership for Peace program. The issues of a Latvian unit's planned participation in peace enforcement operations on the territory of former Yugoslavia and the Baltic peacekeeping battalion's training were also discussed.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Brazauskas Signs Decree on New Cabinet of Ministers

LD2302115096 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas just signed a decree, appointing members of the seventh Cabinet of Ministers. The Government so far will have only 17 ministers, including 5 newly appointed ones.

Virgilijus Bulovas is appointed minister of the interior;

Petras Papovas is appointed minister of administration reforms and municipal affairs;

Aldona Baranauskiene is appointed minister of construction and urban development;

Algimantas Vysniauskas is appointed minister of finance;

Vaidotas Abraitis is appointed minister of communications and information.

The new cabinet will function without the ministers of economics and power engineering. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius told Lithuanian television this morning that he hopes to appoint the new heads of ministries of economics and power engineering next week. [passage omitted]

Lithuania: Nationalist Union Against Speedy Integration With EU

WS2202152096 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Feb 22, BNS — The Nationalist Union — Lithuania's only major Euroskeptical power — link national security guaranties with the European Union but oppose any speedy steps in removing obstacles for E.U. membership.

"Our position is in the middle, within limits of reasonable skepticism," deputy head of the parliamentary

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Nationalist faction, Mecislovas Treinys, said at a news conference Thursday.

Wednesday, the Lithuanian parliament voted to proceed with debates on the controversial amendment to 47 article of the Constitution aimed at allowing purchase of land by foreigners.

Lithuanian politicians' enthusiasm is prompted by "the European internationalism" while nationalists, who do not belong to any international political union, "express the opinion of the nation," Treinys said.

Claiming the priority of national interests, the Nationalist Union urges lawmakers to put off any constitutional amendments for at least five or ten years because Lithuania, in their estimation, is unlikely to join the E.U. earlier.

Meanwhile, nationalists suggest introducing a number of "safety measures" to prevent Lithuanians from being "discriminated" by foreigners in the competition for land.

Nationalist leader Rimantas Smetona insists that the changes, proposed in the draft constitutional amendment, are by far bigger than it is required by the European Union.

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